

Performance Task: Reflective Narrative

Description:

Write a reflective narrative about a time when you felt like an outsider or about a moment when empathy helped you connect across a divide. After reading *The Outsiders* and discussing what it means to belong, you will use vivid details, dialogue, and reflection to show your story, what you learned, and how you grew. Your narrative should end with an author's note: a short reflective paragraph connecting your personal experience to *The Outsiders* and explaining how the novel helped you think differently about belonging, friendship, or family.

Why This Task Matters:

Everyone feels like an outsider at some point. Writing your own story helps you examine your experiences, understand others' perspectives, and connect personal moments to broader themes in literature and life. By linking your narrative to *The Outsiders*, you'll practice the kind of reflective thinking that helps us grow: both as readers and as people.

Criteria for Success:

- The narrative presents a clear experience showing conflict, growth, and reflection.
- Precise details, dialogue, and sensory description help readers feel the experience.
- The author's note connects the personal story to *The Outsiders* and explains what you learned about empathy and belonging.
- Transitions, varied sentence structure, and descriptive language create flow and pacing.
- Active participation in the related discussion demonstrates clear speaking, attentive listening, and respectful responses to peers.

Performance Task Rubric: Reflective Narrative

Use this rubric to check your work before you submit. Ask yourself: does my reflective narrative meet the Proficient description in every row?

Criteria	1 — Beginning	2 — Developing	3 — Proficient
Narrative & Story Development W.7.3a–e	Does not tell a clear story, or the narrative lacks a central experience. Conflict, growth, and reflection are missing or unclear.	Tells a story with some sense of conflict or growth, but the narrative may lack vivid details, dialogue, or a clear arc. Reflection is present but underdeveloped.	Tells a clear, engaging story with a central experience that shows conflict, growth, and reflection. Uses precise details, dialogue, and sensory description to help readers feel the experience.
Reflection & Author's Note W.7.9	Does not include an author's note, or the reflection does not connect the personal experience to <i>The Outsiders</i> .	Includes an author's note that references <i>The Outsiders</i> , but the connection is vague or does not clearly explain what was learned about empathy or belonging.	Includes a clear, thoughtful author's note that connects the personal story to <i>The Outsiders</i> and explains what the writer learned about empathy and belonging.
Organization & Transitions W.7.3c, W.7.4	Organization is unclear or difficult to follow. Transitions between ideas or events are missing or confusing.	Organization is mostly logical, but some transitions between ideas or events are weak or unclear. The narrative structure could be more cohesive.	Organization is logical and easy to follow. Clear transitions guide the reader through events and reflections. The narrative has a cohesive structure with effective pacing.
Language & Style W.7.3d–e	Language is basic or inappropriate for narrative writing. Vocabulary lacks precision and does not create a strong sense of voice or experience.	Tone and word choice are mostly appropriate. Some varied sentence structure and descriptive language are present, but the writing may lack consistency or precision.	Tone and style are appropriate for reflective narrative writing. Vocabulary is precise and varied. Sentence structure is varied, and sensory language creates flow and voice throughout.
Conventions W.7.5	Contains frequent errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation that interfere with understanding.	Contains some errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation that occasionally interfere with clarity. Most conventions are correct.	Demonstrates command of standard English conventions. Grammar, spelling, and punctuation are correct throughout.
Discussion Participation W.7.10	Does not participate meaningfully in the discussion, or participation is off-topic, unclear, or disrespectful.	Participates in the discussion with some relevant contributions, but may not listen attentively or respond thoughtfully to peers.	Actively participates in the discussion with clear speaking, attentive listening, and respectful, thoughtful responses to peers.