**Story Summary Rubric**

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|  | **Below Standard** | **Close to Standard** | **Meets Standard** | **Exceeds Standard** |
| **Topic Sentence** | There is no topic sentence or the topic sentence does not make sense. | Topic sentence states the title of the story and the name of the author (if available). | Topic sentence states the title of the story, the name of the author (if available) and the most important character in the story. | Topic sentence states the title of story, the name of the author (if available) and the most important idea in the story. |
| **Details** | Leaves out so much important information that it is not clear what the story is about. | Describes the main character and his/her goal.  May leave out some important information about the main conflict and obstacles the main character must overcome or may include unimportant obstacles.  Describes some of what the main character does to try to overcome the conflict/obstacle.  May leave out some important information. | Describes the main character and his/her goals and motivation.  Describes the main conflict and important obstacles the main character must overcome.  Describes all of the ways the main character has tried so far to overcome the main conflict and obstacles.  Describes how the story is resolved if applicable.  May include some unnecessary information. | Describes the main character and his/her goals and motivation.  Describes the main conflict and important obstacles the main character must overcome.  Describes all of the ways the main character has tried so far to overcome the main conflict and obstacles.  Describes how the story is resolved if applicable.  Does not include any unnecessary information. |
| **Concluding**  **Sentence** | There is no concluding sentence | The concluding sentence restates the topic sentence using similar wording or just states the resolution. | Concluding sentence states the “so what”—why this matters in real life. Usually this means stating the theme. | The concluding sentence states the “so what” and shows significant insightfulness. |
| **Organization** | Details do not go in time order and the reader cannot understand what happened. | Some details do not go in order of time so the reader gets a bit confused. | All details go in order of time—the order in which the events occurred. (Chronological order) | All details go in order of time. The reader stays interested and can easily understand what happened. |
| **Transitions** | No transitions are used. | There are transitions but some of them are confusing or inappropriate. | Transitions clearly show how ideas are connected, but there is little variety. | A variety of thoughtful transitions are used. They clearly show how ideas are connected. |

**How to summarize a story…**

1. What is the title of the story and who wrote it? If you can’t find out who wrote it, tell me where the story came from. (Topic sentence)
2. Who is/are the main characters? (Topic sentence or details)
3. What does the main character want? What is his/her goal and why does she/he want it? (details)
4. Who or what gets in the main character’s way? What is the main conflict and obstacles? (details)
5. How does the main character try to overcome the obstacles and get what she/he wants? How does she/he try to resolve the conflict? (details)
6. What can we learn from this story? (concluding sentence)

Remember that characters might have more than one goal or their goals might change throughout the story. The obstacles may also change throughout the story.