

Story Writing : "This I Believe" Essay

Teacher Name: **Denise Goldman**

Student Name: _____

CATEGORY	4	3	2	1
Introduction	First paragraph has a "grabber" or catchy beginning.	First paragraph has a weak "grabber".	A catchy beginning was attempted but was confusing rather than catchy.	No attempt was made to catch the reader's attention in the first paragraph.
Organization	The essay is very well organized. One idea or scene follows another in a logical sequence with clear transitions.	The essay is pretty well organized. One idea or scene may seem out of place. Clear transitions are used.	The essay is a little hard to follow. The transitions are sometimes not clear.	Ideas and scenes seem to be randomly arranged.
Focus on Assigned Topic	The entire essay is related to your belief/insight and allows the reader to understand much more about your belief/insight.	Most of the essay is related to your belief/insight. The essay wanders off at one point, but the reader can still learn something about your belief/insight.	Some of the essay is related to your belief/insight, but a reader does not learn much about your belief/insight.	No attempt has been made to relate the essay to a specific belief/insight.
Requirements	The essay met the following requirements: - between 350-500 words - typed, double-spaced in Times 12 pt. font. - name of student visible - essay has a title - clear belief stated	Almost all (about 80%) the requirements were met.	Most (about 60%) of the requirements were met, but several were not.	Many requirements were not met (less than 50%).
Writing Process	Student devotes a lot of time and effort to the writing process (prewriting, drafting, reviewing, and editing). Works hard to make the essay wonderful.	Student devotes sufficient time and effort to the writing process (prewriting, drafting, reviewing, and editing). Works and gets the job done.	Student devotes some time and effort to the writing process but was not very thorough. Does enough to get by.	Student devotes little time and effort to the writing process. Doesn't seem to care.
Creativity	The essay contains many creative details and/or descriptions that contribute to the reader's enjoyment. The author has really used descriptive language and original thinking.	The essay contains a few creative details and/or descriptions that contribute to the reader's enjoyment. The author has used his original thinking.	The essay contains a few creative details and/or descriptions, but they distract from the essay. The author has tried to use original thinking.	There is little evidence of creativity in the essay. The author does not seem to have used much original thinking.