

Student Non Fiction Writing Checklist

Name _____ Date _____ Subject _____

Story Title _____

My Story has: (author checks the story first; editor checks second; author makes corrections before printing)

- _____ beginning, middle and an ending
- _____ the story builds up interesting information (read news magazines for ideas)
- _____ introduces the subject/theme
- _____ topic the writing will discuss
- _____ interesting details so we care about the topic (possibly ask reader questions)
- _____ share the setting:
 - _____ time: present time, 2 years ago, long ago
 - _____ share location where story/event takes place
 - _____ sensory detail beyond what we see
 - _____ sounds _____ smells _____ ouch _____ taste
 - _____ descriptive words to help us learn about the topic: habitat, natural resources, etc.
 - _____ active verbs: run or raced instead of went, OR watched instead of saw, etc.
- _____ proper paragraphs usually 3 or more sentences about 1 fact
- _____ subheadings for each new set of facts
- _____ avoids repeating sentence openings: She ... He ... The man...
- _____ avoids using the same transitions over and over: next, and, then.
- _____ proper capitalization: capitalize first word in sentence, proper nouns
- _____ proper punctuation
- _____ quotation marks with the name of the speaker following
- _____ ask and answer own questions for the reader
- _____ spelling checked
- _____ illustrations, drawings, graphs, charts, TOC, glossary to add details to story
- _____ list resources used