

Writing Checklist

I have shown a clear understanding of narrative conventions by including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• an effective opening (such as a sizzling start) which introduces my characters and setting• at least one effective complication• some form of conclusion or resolution	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
I have built character effectively.	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have built setting effectively by using the senses.	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have used a variety of sentence types for effect (see over page).	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have varied the beginnings of my sentences.	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have used some complex punctuation (e.g. semi-colons, colons, dashes, brackets, ellipsis).	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have used dialogue appropriately (not too much and not too little).	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have used some precise words, for example “rose” instead of “flower”.	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have used some more challenging words, for example change “build” to “construct”.	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have used paragraphs appropriately.	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have maintained the same tense throughout (unless switching deliberately for structural purposes e.g. flashbacks).	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have maintained the same person throughout (e.g. first, third).	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have edited my work to check for errors in punctuation, grammar and spelling.	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have written between 400 – 800 words.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Types of sentences you could use:

Comma sandwich : a sentence with an embedded clause (which is surrounded by commas).

The sun, which had been absent for days, shone steadily in the sky.

The more, more, more sentence

The more he worried, the more he felt uncomfortable, the more he wanted to leave the room.

Sentence, comma and list of verbs ending in -ing

The road unspooled on and on, rising, falling, rising, turning, falling.

Sentences with a semi-colon in the middle to connect two clauses.

Spider-Man was in trouble; he was surrounded by his enemies.

Colons to clarify

A strange hint of something filled his nostrils and made his stomach lurch: it was blood.

Subject first sentence

Lamp posts and trees reared up at him, splintering his shins.

Adjectives at the start sentence

Cold and hungry, Martin waited for someone to take pity on him.

The deliberation sentence

Sandwich, hot dog, salad - which would he choose?

Start with a simile sentence

Like a ghost caught in a fan, he spun round and round on the roundabout.

Using dashes instead of brackets sentence

The roof - the straw thatch - was gone.

Other pointers:

- Do not write too many short sentences in a row
- Do not write too many long sentences in a row