**Name:**

**Life Writing Rubric**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Description and use of concrete detail, figurative language:** A scene is *evoked* for the reader involving multiple senses, drawing him/her into a three-dimensional experience. Detail and figurative language conjure up this experience. Striking, unusual, and unexpected details pepper the page. Moreover, they are linked to themes with which the author is plainly grappling. | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| **Showing and telling:** The writer shows and tells in a balance that is not merely effective, but downright elegant. The sense is that the writer has shown whatever s/he could, and then explained and analyzed in a fashion that complements, or builds on that. The writer clearly respects the reader’s imagination and intellect. Uses technique(s) effectively, like dialogue, juxtaposition, example, and detail, to accomplish this. | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| **Characterization:** At least one person is developed in the piece in a complex, layered, multifaceted, often self-contradictory way. That person might be the narrator, whose mind we see. There may also be various intriguing characters and relationships. Either way, we feel we get to know someone, even if they are somewhat mysterious. | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| **Structure, transitions, and coherence:** The structure is logical, with a form and sequence that effectively conveys the storyline, ideas, etc. It may or may not be in chronological order, but in either case there is a momentum and rhythm that fits the piece’s purpose and themes. Transitions between sections are appropriate—smooth or associative leaps—but either way it is readily apparent why the author has utilized such transitions. | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| **Grammar and conventions:** The piece reads smoothly, with few if any errors of conventions and grammar. | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| **Je ne sais quoi:** The piece sizzles with the spirit and individual imprint of the author. It possesses a command of language, an unusual, lively perspective, a commitment to grappling with real issues and probing into them, a sense of passion, often a sense of humor. No matter how ordinary the subject, the author invigorates it with life; no matter how outlandish the subject, the author enables readers to connect with it. Makes you want to grab someone and say, “You’ve gotta read this!” | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| **Total/Grade**  /18 |  |  |  |  |

**Comments:**