

# THE 4S RUBRIC



## BIG IDEA:

Everyone is a natural born storyteller: Our episodic, emotional, and autobiographical memories create a *storytelling brain* through which we process the world.

If storytellers align their narratives with this storytelling brain, they're able to resonate with their audience.

**Directions:** After you've completed the first draft of your story, use this 4S rubric to ensure you're aligning your story with the storytelling brain. Revise your draft as needed until you score *Exemplary* in each.

	Exemplary	Developing	Beginning
Solo	Story is focused on one clear, compelling idea	The main idea is somewhat evident, but could be made more explicit	It's difficult to distinguish the main idea from other ideas in the story
Sapient	Story has compelling, emotionally resonant characters	Story has characters, but they're one-dimensional or not well developed	Story focuses solely on the events in the plot, rather than being driven by characters
Simple	Story uses clear language. Sentences are easily read and understood. Specialized jargon avoided	Story is sometimes clear and simple, but some sections may still be dense or confusing	Story relies heavily on jargon and buzzwords, or is flooded with overly complex language
Sensory	Story uses varied, rich sensory language	Text has some sensory language but other parts of the story remain dry or abstract	Text lacks language that evokes imagery and involves the senses