

Criteria	Excellent (A) (18–20 pts)	Proficient (B) (16–17 pts)	Developing (C) (14–15 pts)	Beginning (D/F) (0–13 pts)
Authenticity of Voice	Story offers a vivid, authentic perspective grounded in personal or community experience; voice is powerful and unique.	Perspective feels mostly authentic and personal, with a strong sense of place.	Somewhat authentic, though lacks depth or feels generalized.	Voice is unclear or lacks a sense of authenticity; may rely on stereotypes or clichés.
Neighborhood Representation	Neighborhood is richly and specifically portrayed; sensory details and social dynamics are clearly conveyed.	Neighborhood is clearly represented, with adequate detail and relevance.	Some mention of neighborhood, but lacking in clarity or specific detail.	Weak or absent sense of neighborhood; vague or disconnected from the setting.
Character Development & Dialogue	At least three well-developed characters with distinctive voices; dialogue is natural and meaningful.	Three characters included; dialogue helps move the story forward.	Characters present but lack depth; dialogue is functional but may feel forced.	Characters or dialogue missing, underdeveloped, or unrealistic.
Narrative Structure & Plot	Follows a compelling, coherent structure with a clear beginning, middle, and end; pacing is effective.	Plot is coherent and complete, with a recognizable structure.	Narrative structure is present but may feel disjointed or incomplete.	Structure is unclear; lacks coherent plot or progression.

Connection to Unit Themes	Story clearly reflects themes from Soviet literature study and reclaims local narrative with insight.	Story connects to unit themes and challenges conventional narratives.	Attempt to connect to themes is evident but underdeveloped.	Little or no connection to unit themes or cultural exploration.
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Criteria	Points	Notes
Completion of Prep Work	/5	Includes brainstorming guides, planning sheets, character notes, etc.
Effort & Revision	/5	Evidence of meaningful revision and attention to detail in the final draft.
Formatting & Submission	/5	Submitted via Google Docs; all components turned in on time.
Grammar, Mechanics, and Clarity	/5	Few to no errors; writing is clear and easy to follow.