

Place History:	Exceptional = 20 pts	Acceptable = 16 pts	Unacceptable = 12 pts
Research, content and development	Material relates to clear research into a specific place and ecological themes; points are clearly made within the context of the story; evidence supports detailed knowledge of the place	Sufficient information relates to clear research and ecological themes; many good points made, but there is an uneven balance, poor integration with the story, or limited detailed evidence	Information that is not clearly connected to clear research and/or the narrative; ecological themes are not clear; information included that does not support the themes
Fictional characterization and ideas	Establishes a strong sense of place with a rich setting and complex perspective integrated within the research; ideas are clearly developed with a range of relevant details	Establishes clear perspective, setting, sense of place; integration within the research should be stronger; relevant ideas are developed clearly	Some elements of story structure but perspective is unclear; little blending of narrative with the research; uses incomplete or undeveloped ideas
Coherence and organization	Story follows the arc of a good narrative (exposition, rising action, climax, and falling action); story focus is clear; shows control; flows together well; good transitions; succinct and well organized.	Most information presented in the arc sequence; generally well organized but limited transitions between ideas or occasional places where the story requires more focus.	Concepts and ideas are loosely connected; lacks clear focus or transitions; flow and organization are choppy.
Creativity and material	Original presentation of material (story, text, graphics, title); captures audience's attention with creative language and other means; well-varied sentence structure	Some originality apparent; uses concrete language and other means for sensory detail; effective word choice; good sentence structure and variety	Little or no variation; material presented with little originality or interpretation; mechanical and unaware of audience
Writing conventions	Professional presentation with fluid writing, and correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar. Journal articles, texts, and websites are properly cited to credit others ideas	Organized presentation with conventions of grammar, spelling, and word usage followed; errors do not interfere with clarity. Journal articles, texts, and websites are properly cited	Issues with presentation or writing conventions. Citations are missing, incomplete, or inconsistent in formatting

_____ **100 pts x 2 =** _____ **/200 pts** **Letter Grade:** _____

**Adapted from Dr. Megan E. Brown, "Scientific facts through fiction"*