Focusing on your story

NAME: PERIOD: DATE:

**Part 1:**

Carefully and closely reread your writing out loud. If you find any parts that don’t flow or parts that you have to reread for clarity, mark it with your pencil.

Does your story flow easily? YES NO

If no, go back and make corrections so that your writing flows easily.

**Part 3:**

After identifying the details, I want you to think about how you ordered the events and information in your story. Remember, we’re trying to tell a good story so it needs to make sense.

What information would you consider the beginning of your story? Include the **first sentence of this section and the last** (so I know where to start and stop reading).

What information would you consider the middle of your story? Include the **first sentence of this section and the last** (so I know where to start and stop reading).

What information would you consider the ending of your story? Include the **first sentence of this section and the last** (so I know where to start and stop reading).

**PART 2:**

After completing part 1, review your writing. **Use a yellow highlighter to annotate the details** that you included.

Are you using sensory details (details that help the reader to see, hear, smell, or feel important parts of your narrative)? YES NO

**Part 4:**

A good story without a point may be ok when you’re talking with friends, but when you’re writing a college essay it’s downright mandatory. Review your writing. By now, you’ve identified details, you’ve thought about the way you organized your ideas. Now, you need to think about why you chose to tell this story. Don’t forget, the “SO WHAT?” of your story is critical.

Do you include or address the “SO WHAT?” YES NO

If yes, **put a star near the passages** that address what you’ve learned or gained, in other words, the “SO WHAT?” of your essay.

When you’re talking about the “SO WHAT?” do you show me what you’ve learned or do you tell me? IF you tell me, how can you rewrite portions to help show? Make these changes **in the margins** of your rough draft.