



**Informative-Explanatory Essay Writing Rubric (Grades 3-5)**

Score	4	3	2	1	NS
<b>Statement of Purpose/Focus and Organization</b>	<p>The response is fully sustained and consistently and purposefully focused:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>controlling idea or main idea of a topic is focused, clearly stated, and strongly maintained</li> <li>controlling idea or main idea of a topic is introduced and communicated clearly within the purpose, audience, and task</li> </ul> <p>The response has a clear and effective organizational structure creating unity and completeness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>use of a variety of transitional strategies to clarify the relationships between and among ideas</li> <li>logical progression of ideas from beginning to end</li> <li>effective introduction and conclusion for audience and purpose</li> </ul>	<p>The response is adequately sustained and generally focused:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>focus is clear and for the most part maintained, though some loosely related material may be present</li> <li>some context for the controlling idea or main idea of the topic is adequate within the purpose, audience, and task</li> </ul> <p>The response has an evident organizational structure and a sense of completeness, though there may be minor flaws and some ideas may be loosely connected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>adequate use of transitional strategies with some variety to clarify the relationships between and among ideas</li> <li>adequate progression of ideas from beginning to end</li> <li>adequate introduction and conclusion</li> </ul>	<p>The response is somewhat sustained and may have a minor drift in focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>may be clearly focused on the controlling or main idea, but is insufficiently sustained</li> <li>controlling idea or main idea may be unclear and somewhat unfocused</li> </ul> <p>The response has an inconsistent organizational structure, and flaws are evident:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>inconsistent use of transitional strategies with little variety</li> <li>uneven progression of ideas from beginning to end</li> <li>conclusion and introduction, if present, are weak</li> </ul>	<p>The response may be related to the topic but may provide little or no focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>may be very brief</li> <li>may have a major drift</li> <li>focus may be confusing or ambiguous</li> </ul> <p>The response has little or no discernible organizational structure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>few or no transitional strategies are evident</li> <li>frequent extraneous ideas may intrude</li> </ul>	<p>Insufficient, illegible, foreign language, incoherent, off-topic, or off-purpose writing</p>

\*The Final Score will be the sum of all three domains.



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Score	4	3	2	1	NS
<b>Evidence/Elaboration</b>	<p>The response provides thorough and convincing support/evidence for the controlling idea or main idea that includes the effective use of sources, facts, and details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use of evidence from sources is smoothly integrated, comprehensive, and relevant</li> <li>• effective use of a variety of elaborative techniques</li> </ul> <p>The response clearly and effectively expresses ideas, using precise language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use of academic and domain-specific vocabulary is clearly appropriate for the audience and purpose</li> </ul>	<p>The response provides adequate support/evidence for controlling idea or main idea that includes the use of sources, facts, and details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• some evidence from sources is integrated, though citations may be general or imprecise</li> <li>• adequate use of some elaborative techniques</li> </ul> <p>The response adequately expresses ideas, employing a mix of precise with more general language</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use of domain-specific vocabulary is generally appropriate for the audience and purpose</li> </ul>	<p>The response provides uneven, cursory support/evidence for the controlling idea or main idea that includes partial or uneven use of sources, facts, and details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• evidence from sources is weakly integrated, and citations, if present, are uneven</li> <li>• weak or uneven use of elaborative techniques</li> </ul> <p>The response expresses ideas unevenly, using simplistic language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use of domain-specific vocabulary that may at times be inappropriate for the audience and purpose</li> </ul>	<p>The response provides minimal support/evidence for the controlling idea or main idea that includes little or no use of sources, facts, and details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use of evidence from the source material is minimal, absent, in error, or irrelevant</li> </ul> <p>The response expression of ideas is vague, lacks clarity, or is confusing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• uses limited language or domain-specific vocabulary</li> <li>• may have little sense of audience and purpose</li> </ul>	<p>Insufficient, illegible, foreign language, incoherent, off-topic, or off-purpose writing</p>
Score	N/A	N/A	2	1	0
<b>Conventions/Editing</b>	(2-point rubric begins at score point 2)	(2-point rubric begins at score point 2)	<p>The response demonstrates an adequate command of conventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• some errors in usage and sentence formation are present, but no systematic pattern of errors is displayed</li> <li>• adequate use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling</li> </ul>	<p>The response demonstrates partial command of conventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• errors in usage may obscure meaning</li> <li>• inconsistent use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling</li> </ul>	<p>The response demonstrates a lack of command of conventions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• errors are frequent and severe and meaning is often obscure</li> </ul>