

Student Friendly Version--Informative/Explanatory Writing Rubric 6-12

Score	Purpose, Focus and Organization 4 points	Evidence and Elaboration 4 points	Conventions of Standard English (Begins at score point 2)
4	<p>My writing has the purpose to completely inform my audience and/or to explain something to them. My writing keeps a tight focus by having a clear thesis and effective organization. It is complete and easily understood. My writing includes the following:</p> <p>___ I have a strong thesis statement that guides my essay.</p> <p>___ I used a variety of transitional words and phrases that show the relationship of between and among ideas.</p> <p>___ My writing starts with a strong introduction that hooks the reader and ends with a conclusion that wraps up the essay and is not mere summary.</p> <p>___ My essay's order makes complete sense.</p> <p>___ I am writing in a way that fits my audience and my purpose.</p> <p>___ My writing shows my personal voice; while completely avoiding slang.</p> <p>___ My essay has no loosely related material.</p>	<p>My writing gives my audience complete evidence to convince them I am an authority on the subject. I have cited evidence to support my thesis statement completely by using sources, facts, and details effectively. My writing includes the following:</p> <p>___ My evidence is complete and relevant to the points I make, and includes precise references to the sources.</p> <p>___ My evidence is smoothly added in a variety of ways (examples, quotations, definitions, etc.) that best fit the topic.</p> <p>___ I use a variety of elaborative techniques to demonstrate I understand the topic and know how my evidence fits my points and the thesis.</p> <p>___ I use words and phrases that show I understand the topic completely, are specific to the type of prompt I am writing about (words that are scientific or literary or historical), and are appropriate for the audience.</p> <p>___ I use different types of sentences (simple, compound and complex) effectively.</p>	
3	<p>My writing mostly has the purpose to inform my audience and/or explain something to them. My writing has a focus by having a thesis and organizational structure. It is mostly complete and understandable. My writing includes the following:</p> <p>___ I have a thesis statement that guides my essay.</p> <p>___ I used transitions that show the relationship of between and among ideas.</p> <p>___ My writing starts with an introduction and ends with a conclusion.</p> <p>___ My essay's order makes sense.</p> <p>___ I am writing in a way that shows I am aware of my audience and my purpose.</p> <p>___ My writing mostly shows my personal voice; while mostly avoiding slang.</p> <p>___ My essay has some loosely related material.</p>	<p>My writing gives my audience evidence to show them I understand my subject. I have used evidence to support my thesis statement by using sources, facts and details. My writing includes the following:</p> <p>___ My evidence is relevant to the topic and points I make, and includes general references to the sources.</p> <p>___ My evidence is added in a variety of ways (examples, quotes, definitions, etc.).</p> <p>___ I use elaborative techniques to demonstrate I understand the topic and know how my evidence fits my points and the thesis.</p> <p>___ I use academic and general words and phrases that show I understand the topic, are related to the type of prompt I am writing about (words that are scientific or literary or historical), and are usually appropriate for the audience.</p> <p>___ I have a few different types of sentences (simple, compound and complex)</p>	

Score	Purpose, Focus and Organization 4 points	Evidence and Elaboration 4 points	Conventions of Standard English (Begins at score point 2)
2	<p>My writing somewhat has the purpose to inform my audience and/or explain something to them. My writing has a limited focus by having a loose claim and organization. It is somewhat complete and understandable. My writing includes the following:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I have a thesis statement that is not supported completely throughout the essay or is unclear. <input type="checkbox"/> I sometimes used transitional words/phrases or overused the same transitions. <input type="checkbox"/> My writing starts with a weaker introduction and ends with a weaker conclusion that may be all summary. <input type="checkbox"/> My essay's order is somewhat confusing. <input type="checkbox"/> I am writing in a way that shows I am somewhat aware of my audience and my purpose. <input type="checkbox"/> My essay has loosely related or off-topic material.</p>	<p>My writing gives my audience simple or disconnected evidence to show them I don't completely understand my subject. I have used limited evidence to support my thesis statement. My writing includes the following:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> My evidence is somewhat connected to the topic and points I make, and may or may not come from the sources. <input type="checkbox"/> My evidence is added in weak or confusing ways. <input type="checkbox"/> I use repetitive or ineffective elaborative techniques. <input type="checkbox"/> I used words and phrases that are somewhat connected to the topic are somewhat specific to the type of prompt I am writing about (words that are scientific or literary or historical). I use some wrong words. <input type="checkbox"/> My sentences are mostly simple; I need more complex/compound sentences.</p>	<p>My writing shows that I understand the basic conventions of English. My writing may include the following:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Some minor errors in usage but no pattern of errors</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Effective use of punctuation, capitalization, sentence structure, and</p>
1	<p>My writing shows little awareness of the purpose or the audience. My writing has little focus through confusing claim/organization. It is mostly off topic and/too short. My writing includes the following:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> My thesis and ideas are confusing or unclear. <input type="checkbox"/> I used few transitions. <input type="checkbox"/> My writing is frequently off topic. <input type="checkbox"/> My essay's order is confusing. <input type="checkbox"/> My writing is too short to show I understand the topic.</p>	<p>My writing gives my audience very little evidence that shows I am confused about the subject. My writing includes the following:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I include very little, false, or disconnected evidence connected from the sources. <input type="checkbox"/> My ideas are unclear or confusing. <input type="checkbox"/> I used words and phrases that showed a lack of vocabulary and/or were not connected to the topic. <input type="checkbox"/> My sentences are simple; I need more complex/compound sentences.</p>	<p>My writing shows that I somewhat understand the basic conventions of English. My writing may include the following:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Various minor errors in usage</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Random errors in punctuation, capitalization, sentence structure, and spelling</p>
0	<p>My writing is not related to the topic and shows no awareness of the purpose, audience and/or task. There is no claim, focus or order. My writing may:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Be blank <input type="checkbox"/> Not be written in English <input type="checkbox"/> Unreadable <input type="checkbox"/> Only restate the prompt <input type="checkbox"/> Not be written in sentences; only bulleted lists <input type="checkbox"/> Have no transitions <input type="checkbox"/> Not have enough of my writing and just have sections copied from the prompt or sources</p>	<p>My writing is not supported with evidence related to the topic. I did not use sources, facts, or details. My writing may:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Only directly copy part of the reading selection(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Include no citations from the reading selection <input type="checkbox"/> Include no words or phrases related to my subject, have gone off topic, or didn't make sense <input type="checkbox"/> Did not refer to the reading selection(s) at all <input type="checkbox"/> Have incomplete sentences, fragments, and run-on sentences</p>	<p>My writing shows that I do not understand the basic conventions of English.</p>