Informative/Explanatory Writing Rubric

9th Grade English Language Arts

Rubric Scoring Key	Fully meets (4) All criteria present in the writing	Mostly meets (3) Most criteria present, with some misunderstandings	Partially meets (2) Criteria attempted, but significant misunderstandings	Does not meet yet (1) Criteria are not attempted or not enough evidence to rate

Structure	Rubric Score	Notes
Organization • Includes an introduction statement/paragraph that hooks the reader, provides essential context or background information, and introduces the topic with an informative thesis • Groups together related ideas, concepts, and information, showing connections and distinctions among them • Uses transitions to link ideas and sections, clarify relationships between ideas, and create cohesion	4 3 2 1	
Text Features • Includes formatting elements (headings, subheadings), graphics (images, illustrations), and multimedia to help the audience understand the topic • Integrates text features to support the topic and engage the audience	4 3 2 1	
Conclusion • Provides a concluding statement/section that summarizes the main ideas of the topic and briefly addresses the implications/significance of the topic	4 3 2 1	

Development	Rubric Score	Notes
Evidence • Develops the topic with information such as facts, concrete details, anecdotes, quotations, or other examples • Selects evidence that shows understanding of the topic and is appropriate for the audience's level of knowledge	4 3 2 1	
Explanation • Explains how the evidence connects to and supports the topic, deepening the audience's understanding	4 3 2 1	

Language	Rubric Score	Notes
Style • Maintains formal language and an objective tone while also considering the task, audience, and purpose • Uses precise, domain-specific language to clearly convey complex ideas	4 3 2 1	
Grammar & Conventions • Uses correct spelling, capitalization, and punctuation • Uses proper MLA formatting and citation • Demonstrates consistent use of grade-level grammar and usage	4 3 2 1	