

Student's Name _____ Date _____

Informational/Explanatory Rubric

Use this rubric to assess student writing. Record the appropriate number in the Score column.

Criteria	Needs Improvement	Average	Good	Excellent	Score
	1	2	3	4	
1. A topic sentence states the topic and includes a controlling idea that makes the writer's point.	Needs to identify the topic, or needs a controlling idea.	Topic sentence attempts to identify the topic and make the writer's point.	Topic sentence identifies the topic and makes a clear point.	Topic sentence identifies a clear topic and makes a clear and compelling point.	
2. Facts, examples, and details support the topic sentence.	Needs details, or details do not support the topic sentence.	Includes some details to support the topic sentence; some details may not be relevant.	Includes relevant details to support the topic sentence.	Includes many relevant, interesting details to support the topic sentence.	
3. Transition/linking words and phrases connect ideas and details.	Needs transition words and phrases, or transitions used incorrectly.	Includes a few transition words and phrases.	Some transition words and phrases link details and ideas.	Varied transition words and phrases link details and ideas.	
4. Precise verbs convey information.	Needs precise verbs.	Includes two or three precise verbs, may show repetitive usage.	Includes several precise, varied verbs.	Precise verbs convey information in an interesting and satisfying way.	
5. A concluding sentence follows the body logically and explains the topic's significance.	Needs a conclusion, or conclusion is abrupt or unrelated.	The conclusion follows logically but may not explain the topic's significance.	The conclusion follows logically and explains the topic's significance.	The conclusion explains the topic's significance in a thoughtful and satisfying way.	
6. Follows conventions of mechanics, usage, and spelling.	Errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization interfere with reader understanding.	Some errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.	Few errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.	Correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.	
Overall Score					



Resource Links

SAM Keyword: Informational Rubric,
Explanatory Rubric

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Informational/Explanatory Writing Scoring Chart

Use the chart below to provide feedback on student writing.

Criteria	Score	Comments
1. Topic sentence		
2. Supporting facts, examples, details		
3. Transition/linking words and phrases		
4. Precise verbs		
5. Conclusion		
6. Conventions		



Resource Links

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