

Rubric for Expository Writing

	6	5	4	3	2	1
Ideas	The topic, focus and details make the essay truly memorable.	The essay is informative with a clear focus and specific details.	The essay is informative with a clear focus. More specific details are needed.	The focus of the essay needs to be clearer, and more specific details are needed.	The topic needs to be narrowed or expanded. Many more specific details or explanation is needed.	Off topic; A new topic needs to be selected
Organization	The organization and transitions make the essay clear and easy to read.	The beginning interests the reader. The middle supports the focus. The ending works well. Transitions are used.	The essay is divided into a beginning, middle and end. Some transitions are used.	The beginning or ending is weak. The middle needs a paragraph for each main point. More transitions are needed.	The beginning, middle and ending all run together. Paragraphs and transitions are needed.	The essay should be reorganized
Voice	The writer's voice sounds confident, knowledgeable and enthusiastic.	The writer's voice sounds knowledgeable and confident. It fits the audience.	The writer's voice sounds knowledgeable most of the time and fits the audience.	The writer sometimes sounds unsure, and/or the voice needs to fit the audience better.	The writer sounds unsure or terms are used incorrectly. The voice needs to fit the audience.	The writer needs to learn about voice
Word Choice	The word choice makes the essay very clear and informative.	Specific nouns and action verbs make the essay clear and informative.	Some nouns and verbs could be more specific.	Too many general words are used. Specific nouns and verbs are needed.	General or missing words make the essay difficult to understand.	The writer needs help to find more specific word choice
Sentence Fluency	The sentences are skillfully written, and readers will enjoy them.	The sentences read smoothly.	Most of the sentences read smoothly, but some are short and choppy.	Many short, choppy sentences need to be rewritten to make the essay read smoothly.	Many sentences are choppy or incomplete and need to be rewritten.	Most sentences need to be rewritten
Conventions	The essay is error free.	The essay may have a few minor errors in punctuation, spelling or grammar.	The essay has some errors in punctuation, spelling or grammar.	Several errors confuse the reader.	Many errors make the essay difficult to read.	Help is needed to make corrections; spell check was not used