

Informational/Expository Paragraph Grades 7-8

W2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.

Criteria	4	3	2	1
Organization W2a	a1. Clearly introduces main points in well-developed topic sentence. a2. Follows clear organization of ideas throughout paragraph.	Introduces main points in clear topic sentence. Mostly follows clear organization of ideas in paragraph.	Introduces some points in topic sentence. Organization of ideas does not follow consistent pattern of development.	Missing a topic sentence. Does not organize ideas clearly throughout paragraph.
Evidence + Commentary W2b	b1. Uses relevant and concrete details, facts, and quotations to support each point. b2. Clearly explains connection between each point and evidence in paragraph.	Uses mostly relevant and concrete details, facts, and quotations to support each point. Mostly explains connection between each point and evidence in paragraph.	Uses few details, facts, and quotations that relate to and support each point. Sometimes explains connection between each point and evidence in paragraph.	Uses unrelated or is missing details, facts, and quotations to support each point. Does not explain connection between each point and evidence in paragraph.
Transitions W2c	Uses appropriate and various transitions throughout paragraph.	Uses some appropriate and various transitions throughout paragraph.	Uses same or repetitive transitions throughout paragraph.	No transitions.
Vocabulary W2d	Uses precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to explain topic.	Uses some precise language or domain-specific vocabulary to explain topic.	Uses general or vague language and vocabulary to explain topic.	Does not use any precise language or domain-specific vocabulary to explain topic.
Style W2e	Written in 3rd person point of view with no "I-statements".	Mostly written in 3rd person point of view few "I-statements."	Written in first person.	NA
Concluding Sentence W2f	Provides concluding sentence that re-emphasizes main ideas in new way.	Provides concluding sentence that partially re-emphasizes main ideas.	Provides concluding sentence that restates topic sentence exactly or with basic conclusion structure ("That's what...").	Missing concluding sentence.
Focus W4	Produces clear, concise, and focused writing that addresses given task, purpose, and audience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stays on topic 	Produces mostly focused writing that addresses given task, purpose, and audience. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mostly stays on topic 	Produces writing that deviates from task, purpose, or audience or includes excessive information, examples, or analysis that take away from clarity of response.	Produces writing that has no relation or connection to given task, purpose, or audience.
Writing Process W5	Provides evidence of quality planning, revising, and editing.	Provides some evidence of planning, revising, and editing.	Provides little evidence of planning, revising, and editing.	Provides no evidence of planning, revising, and editing.
Conventions L1 L2	-L1: Uses correct grammar -L2: Uses correct capitalization, punctuation, and spelling	L1: Mostly correct grammar L2: Mostly correct capitalization, punctuation, and spelling	L1: Frequent grammar mistakes L2: Frequent errors in capitalization, punctuation, and spelling	Errors in grammar (L1) or capitalization, punctuation, or spelling (L2) impact readability
Works Cited /Citations W8	-Quotes or paraphrases source information to avoid plagiarism. -Follows standard citation format	Inconsistently quotes or paraphrases source information to avoid plagiarism. Mostly follows standard citation format.	Does not quote or paraphrase source information. Does not cite source information.	Evidence of obvious and/or deliberate plagiarism.