

What Are the Facts?

STANDARDS-BASED RUBRIC

Use this rubric to assess your students' writing. *Proficiency* is aligned with the 5th grade standard for informative writing.

	(1) Beginning	(2) Developing	(3) Proficient
Introduction	The main topic is unclear.	The topic is evident, but it is not introduced explicitly; or there is a lack of focus or organization in the introduction.	The topic is introduced clearly. The introduction provides a general observation and focus, and groups related information logically.
Details	There are no examples that support the main topic.	Some details or examples are included, but they do not all relate directly to the topic. Quotations may be missing or used incorrectly.	The topic is developed with facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples. All details and examples relate directly to the topic.
Transitions	Transitional words are missing; ideas are not linked together in any way.	Few transitional words are used; ideas are loosely linked together.	Ideas are linked using appropriate words, phrases, and clauses (e.g., in contrast, especially, for instance).
Language	Domain specific vocabulary is missing.	Some domain-specific vocabulary is included, but it does not support or explain the topic.	Precise language and domain-specific vocabulary is used to inform about or explain the topic.
Conclusion	A conclusion is missing or unclear.	A conclusion is provided, but does not clearly relate to the main topic.	A concluding statement is presented, and is related to the information or explanation of the topic.