

Informational Writing: Standards-Based Rubric

Use this rubric to assess your students' writing. Proficiency is aligned with 7th grade standards for informational writing.

	(1) Beginning	(2) Developing	(3) Proficient
Introduction	The topic is briefly introduced; ideas, concepts, and information are loosely organized.	The topic is introduced clearly; ideas, concepts, and information are organized.	The topic is introduced clearly and previews what is to follow; ideas, concepts, and information are organized using strategies such as definition, classification, comparison/contrast, and cause/effect.
Text Features	Formatting or graphics, if included, do not aid comprehension of the topic.	Some formatting, graphics, and/or multimedia are included when useful to aid comprehension.	Formatting, graphics, and/or multimedia are thoughtfully included when useful to aid comprehension.
Topic Development	Topic is developed with loosely related facts and examples.	Topic is developed with some relevant facts, concrete details, or other information and examples.	Topic is developed with relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.
Transitions	Some transitions are used to link ideas and concepts.	Transitions are used to clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.	Appropriate transitions are used to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.
Vocabulary	Very little precise language or domain-specific vocabulary is used to inform about the topic.	Some precise language and domain-specific vocabulary is used to inform about the topic.	Precise language and domain-specific vocabulary is used to inform about or explain the topic.
Style	A formal style was attempted in some parts of the text, or was used inconsistently.	A formal style was maintained through most of the text.	A formal style was effectively established and maintained throughout the text.
Conclusion	The concluding statement or section is related to the information presented but does not follow directly.	The concluding statement or section follows directly from the information or explanation presented.	The concluding statement or section follows from and supports the information or explanation presented.