Explanatory Assessment Rubric

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| Name: | Sinking the Unsinkable | Date: |  |

Use the following checklist to evaluate your work or that of a classmate for the traits of effective writing.

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| 6 | **Stimulating IDEAS** |
|  | ***The essay . . .***   * contains an effective thesis statement. * contains specific facts, examples, or quotations to support the thesis. * interests and informs readers. |
| 5 | **Logical ORGANIZATION** |
|  | ***The essay . . .***   * includes a clear beginning, a strong middle, and an appropriate ending. * presents ideas in an organized manner. * uses transitions to link sentences and paragraphs. |
| 5 | **Engaging VOICE** |
|  | ***The essay . . .***   * speaks clearly and knowledgeably. * shows that the writer is truly interested in the topic. |
| 5 | **Original WORD CHOICE** |
|  | ***The essay . . .***   * explains or defines any unfamiliar terms. * contains specific nouns and active verbs. |
| 5 | **Effective SENTENCE STYLE** |
|  | ***The essay . . .***   * flows smoothly from one idea to the next. * shows a variety of sentence lengths and structures. |
| 5 | **Correct, Accurate COPY** |
|  | ***The essay . . .***   * observes the basic rules of writing. * follows the format required by the teacher, or follows some other effective design. |

**Comments:**

You’ve provided a clear thesis statement and supported it with many interesting, historical details. The sentences read smoothly, and your essay is free of careless errors. Well done!