**Explanatory Rubric**

Use this rubric as a guide for assessing explanatory writing.

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| **Ideas**  The writing . . . | |
|  | includes a clear, effective thesis statement. |
|  | provides a variety of interesting details to support it. |
| **Organization** | |
|  | begins by capturing the reader’s interest and providing the thesis statement. |
|  | has an effectively organized middle. |
|  | focuses on one main point for each middle paragraph. |
|  | ends by summarizing the ideas and giving the reader a final thought. |
| **Voice** | |
|  | has a voice that shows knowledge of the topic. |
|  | has a voice that engages the reader. |
| **Word Choice** | |
|  | uses precise nouns and active verbs. |
| **Sentence Fluency** | |
|  | uses a variety of sentence lengths and beginnings. |
|  | flows smoothly from one sentence to another. |
| **Conventions** | |
|  | uses end punctuation and commas correctly. |
|  | correctly capitalizes first words and proper nouns. |
|  | avoids spelling errors. |
|  | correctly uses words (*there, they’re, their*). |

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