



Informational Writing Rubric

Grade 9

	1 Beginning	2 Approaching	3 Developing	4 Proficient	5 Advanced
Claim Weight: 3x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This piece of writing does not yet present a clear claim or thesis about a complex topic or address the prompt. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The piece of writing exceeds the achievement described in level 1 but has not fully met the criteria for level 3. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The claim or thesis in this draft is vague, unclear, or does not fully address the complexity or all aspects of the topic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The piece of writing exceeds the achievement described in level 3 but has not fully met the criteria for level 5. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A specific claim expressing a central idea effectively introduces the topic of the writing and its focus. The claim, also sometimes called a thesis, answers the question or prompt fully.
Evidence Weight: 5x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The evidence is absent or does not yet support the claim because it is insufficient or because it appears irrelevant, inaccurate, or inappropriate based on the information presented in this draft. (Citations are not included when required.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The piece of writing exceeds the achievement described in level 1 but has not fully met the criteria for level 3. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mostly relevant evidence is used to support the claim, but it is not yet sufficient to develop the topic thoroughly. The evidence does not yet show an understanding of the audience or their level of knowledge about the topic. (Citations may be missing or inaccurate when required.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The piece of writing exceeds the achievement described in level 3 but has not fully met the criteria for level 5. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well-chosen and sufficient facts, definitions, details, quotations or other information and examples develop the topic fully and are appropriate for the audience's knowledge of the topic. (When reference materials are used, accurate citations are included.)
Reasoning Weight: 3x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The evidence is presented without explanation or analysis so its connection to the claim is not established. The language used in this text is general and does not yet show a clear understanding of the topic or its vocabulary. The word choices do not yet effectively bridge the gap between the complex topic and the audience's understanding of the topic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The piece of writing exceeds the achievement described in level 1 but has not fully met the criteria for level 3. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some evidence is explained carefully and fully in terms of the claim, but other evidence is not analyzed thoroughly so the connection to the claim is unclear. The language varies from domain-specific to general throughout the piece. Some complex ideas are thoroughly explained in precise language, while others are described in general language that does not strengthen the connection to the claim. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The piece of writing exceeds the achievement described in level 3 but has not fully met the criteria for level 5. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed analysis of the evidence connects the facts, details, and other examples to the claim clearly. This piece of writing uses precise language specific to the topic to clarify complex ideas and develop the claim.
Coherence Weight: 5x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This piece of writing does not yet have an introduction to present the topic or the way it will be explored. This piece of writing is not yet organized into an effective structure that clarifies the connections between complex ideas and information. Formatting and multimedia devices, if applicable, are not used in this draft. This piece of writing does not yet use effective transitions to connect ideas within sections or across sections of text or to clarify the complex ideas within the text. This piece does not yet contain a conclusion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The piece of writing exceeds the achievement described in level 1 but has not fully met the criteria for level 3. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The introduction presents the topic and the claim clearly, but it does not suggest how the supporting information will be organized or explored. Some information is organized to clarify connections in the writing, but other information is misplaced so its connection to the claim is less effective. Headings and multimedia additions, if applicable, do not strengthen the unity of the writing. Effective transitions are used within paragraphs and sections of text, but no transitions connect major sections of text to link the complex ideas throughout the larger piece of writing. This piece of writing includes a partial concluding statement or section that is not yet fully related to the information presented or developed into an effective conclusion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The piece of writing exceeds the achievement described in level 3 but has not fully met the criteria for level 5. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The introduction expresses the significance of the complex topic the writing will explore, a specific claim, and a preview of how the ideas and information will be developed. The writing organizes information effectively to make clear connections between complex ideas and information and uses formatting and multimedia creations when applicable to support the claim. Accurate and varied transitions connect sentences, paragraphs, and sections of text to show how the ideas relate to each other and to the claim, creating a cohesive piece of writing. The writing includes an effective conclusion.
Audience Appeal Weight: 2x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The writing does not yet have the formal style and objective tone appropriate for a serious piece of writing. The writing shows the need for additional support in developing an appropriate command of the conventions of standard English grammar, usage, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The writing exceeds the achievement described in level 1 but has not fully met the criteria for level 3. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The style varies from formal to informal with a tone that is subjective and personal at times. The writing is challenging to read at times, because of errors in standard English grammar, usage, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling, and can achieve more with revision. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The writing exceeds the achievement described in level 3, perhaps containing only minor but consistent errors, but has not fully met the criteria for level 5. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The writing maintains a formal style and objective tone in addition to a skillful command of the conventions of standard English grammar, usage, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling with very few errors.