

Rubric for Explanation Writing Assessment (Updated August 2008)

Student must read the prompt, select topic, and identify purpose.

1. Organization

<i>The writer uses...</i>	Score
A. Fewer than 4 sentences (go to the Rubric for Emerging Writers)	0
B. Appropriate plan (T-Chart)	1
C. 4-6 complete sentences	1
D. 7 or more complete sentences	1
E. Correct paragraph structure (indents first line, returns to margin)	1

Section 1. Earned Score (add 1B, 1C, 1D, and 1E) _____

2. Introduction

<i>The writer uses...</i>	Score
A. Topic unclear (does not address prompt, stop this section)	0
B. Topic sentence names the topic and includes statement of position	2
C. Introduction establishes (defines) topic and writer's position (at least two sentences)	3
D. Introduction creates a strong statement or imagery (two or more sentences)	4

Section 2. Earned Score (enter **highest** scored value from 2A, 2B, 2C, and 2D) _____

3. Body

<i>The writer uses...</i>	Score
A. Detail sentences do not support topic (allow NO irrelevant detail, stop this section)	0
B. Detail sentences provide reasons (what and why) to support topic sentence (at least three)	1
C. Detail sentences provide reasons (what and why) to support topic sentence (four or more)	1
D. Detail sentences include descriptive sentences (separate from "what and why" sentences)	1
E. Detail sentences include sentences of example (separate from "what and why" sentences)	1
F. Detail sentences include past tense accounts (separate from "what and why" sentences)	1

Section 3. Earned Score (add 3B, 3C, 3D, 3E, and 3F) _____

4. Vocabulary Usage

<i>The writer uses...</i>	Score
A. No description present	0
B. Vocabulary includes simple, common descriptions (cool, nice, fun)	0
C. Noun modifiers include sensory or specific descriptive words (more than 1 example)	1
D. Multiple noun modifiers used to describe some aspects of topic (expensive shiny chrome or red and green stripes; exclude really and very)	1
E. Vocabulary includes technical vocabulary (two examples)	1
F. Phrases reflecting depth of knowledge (two examples)	1
G. Metaphor, simile, or other figurative language used	1

Section 4. Earned Score (add 4C, 4D, 4E, 4F, and 4G) _____

5. Sentence Structure

<i>The writer uses...</i>	Score
A. More incomplete than complete sentences (end this section)	0
B. Simple sentence structure <i>It has brown fur.</i>	1
C. Simple sentence structure with compound in the predicate <i>She is generous and forgiving. They dribble and run up the court.</i>	1
D. Compound sentence	1
E. Complex sentence	1

Section 5. Earned Score (add 5B, 5C, 5D, and 5E) _____

6. Conclusion

<i>The writer uses...</i>	Score
A. No recognizable conclusion	0
B. Conclusion restates the topic and position	3
C. Conclusion restates the topic and position and includes a personal observation or a summary (more than one sentence of conclusion)	4

Section 6. Earned Score (enter **highest** score value from 6A, 6B, or 6C) _____

7. Perspective and Tense

<i>The writer uses...</i>	Score
A. Perspective or tense changes without reason	0
B. Perspective maintained	1
C. Tense maintained	1

Section 7. Earned Score (add 7A, 7B, and 7C) _____

8. Conventions

<i>The writer uses...</i>	Score
A. Sentences capitalized with correct end punctuation throughout	1
B. Proper nouns punctuated correctly; no "stray" capital letters	1
C. Correct use of commas	1
D. Correct use of higher level punctuation (semi colon, colon, dash, etc.)	1

Section 8. Earned Score (add 8A, 8B, 8C, and 8D) _____

9. Mechanics

<i>The writer uses...</i>	Score
A. Poor mechanics or handwriting interrupt meaning (unable to read)	0
B. Subject verb agreement throughout	1
C. Appropriate noun forms throughout (singular, plural, and possessive)	1
D. Appropriate verb forms throughout (irregular verbs)	1
E. Appropriate pronouns throughout	1

Section 9. Earned Score (add 9B, 9C, 9D, and 9E) _____

÷ 7 third grade

_____ (raw score)

÷ 9 fourth grade or above

_____ (proficiency level)