

Expository Writing Scoring Guide

Five Features of Expository Writing

- Ideas & Content: Clarity of Purpose and Topic
- Organization: Organization and Development of Main Ideas
- Audience Awareness: Appropriate for Intended Audience
- Language: Sentence Structure & Vocabulary
- Conventions: Spelling, Grammar, & Punctuation

4 • ADVANCED

- Purpose is clear & thesis is presented in an engaging or original way
- Beginning engages reader, middle deepens and develops topic by identifying important ideas and providing supporting details; conclusion creatively restates main ideas
- Writing provides background information and shows awareness of audience through appropriate language and other strategies (humor, directly addressing audience, interior monologue, etc.)
- Language is precise and lively; sentences are varied and vocabulary is specific and adds to the effectiveness of the writing
- Writing shows clear control of writing conventions though there may be a few errors that are “first-draft” in nature

3 • PROFICIENT

- Purpose and topic are clearly presented
- Clear beginning, middle and conclusion; important ideas are emphasized and developed with supporting details
- Writing may include background information and shows awareness of audience
- Language is clear; sentence types are varied; vocabulary is specific
- Writing shows control of writing conventions; errors do not interfere with meaning

2 • DEVELOPING

- Purpose and topic are introduced but may be vague or incomplete; reader has many questions
- Ideas are developed incompletely; middle and/or conclusion may be abrupt or missing; main ideas may not be supported with supporting details
- Writing shows little or inconsistent awareness of reader; language may be inappropriate or too informal
- Language is general; sentence types are repeated or mostly simple
- Errors in conventions may interfere with meaning

1 • EMERGING

- Purpose may be missing or unclear; Topic may be brief or difficult to identify
- Brief introduction (or only introduction); limited or no development
- Writing does not show audience awareness
- Language is general and vague or used incorrectly; sentences may be incomplete or run-on
- Errors in conventions interfere with meaning or make writing difficult to understand

OT = Off topic

NR = No response