

### Informative/Explanatory Writing Rubric

Criterion	3 – Above Proficient	2 – Proficient	1 – Below Proficient
<p><b>Focus</b></p> <p>ELA.8.W.2a ELA.8.W.4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Insightfully addresses all aspects of the prompt</li> <li>• Introduces topic in a well-formed, sophisticated thesis statement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Competently addresses all aspects of the prompt</li> <li>• Introduces topic in a clear thesis statement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partially addresses all aspects of the prompt or not at all</li> <li>• Introduces a flawed topic in a weak thesis statement or thesis statement is absent</li> </ul>
<p><b>Organization</b></p> <p>ELA.8.W.2a ELA.8.W.2c ELA.8.W.2f ELA.8.W.4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skillfully orients reader to topic in introduction and previews what is to follow</li> <li>• Thoroughly develops topic with relevant body paragraphs</li> <li>• Provides a meaningful and effective conclusion that follows from and supports the information presented</li> <li>• Creates cohesion and clarifies relationships through the skillful use of transitions within or between paragraphs</li> <li>• Purposefully and logically uses techniques such as headings, charts, tables, etc. to organize</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Orients reader to topic in introduction and previews what is to follow</li> <li>• Develops topic with relevant body paragraphs</li> <li>• Provides a conclusion that follows from and supports the information presented</li> <li>• Creates cohesion and clarifies relationships through the use of transitions within or between paragraphs</li> <li>• Uses techniques such as headings, charts, tables, etc. to organize ideas and aid comprehension</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inadequately orients reader to topic in introduction and/or fails to preview what is to follow</li> <li>• Inadequately develops topic with minimum number of paragraphs</li> <li>• Attempts to provide a sense of closure or conclusion is nonexistent</li> <li>• Uses few or no transitions</li> <li>• Includes little or no organization of ideas</li> </ul>

	ideas and aid comprehension		
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Development</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">ELA.8.W.2 ELA.8.W.2b ELA.8.W.9 (if applicable)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skillfully develops the topic using well-chosen facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples that are relevant and substantial</li> <li>• Effectively integrates and cites credible sources if applicable</li> <li>• Shows insightful understanding of topic or text</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develops the topic using well-chosen facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples that are relevant and substantial</li> <li>• Competently integrates and cites credible sources if applicable.</li> <li>• Shows competent understanding of topic or text</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides minimal, inaccurate, or irrelevant evidence to support the topic</li> <li>• Incorrectly integrates and cites sources or not at all</li> <li>• Shows limited or non-existent understanding of the topic or text</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Language</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">ELA.8.W.2d ELA.8.W.4 ELA.8.L.1 ELA.8.L.2 ELA.8.L.3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses purposeful and varied sentence structure</li> <li>• Contains minimal to no errors in conventions (grammar, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation)</li> <li>• Strategically uses precise language and domain-specific vocabulary that is appropriate for audience and purpose to inform about the topic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses correct and varied sentence structure</li> <li>• Contains few, minor errors in conventions</li> <li>• Competently uses precise language and domain-specific vocabulary that is appropriate for audience and purpose to inform about the topic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses limited and/or repetitive sentence structure or shows a lack of sentence mastery (fragments and run-ons)</li> <li>• Contains numerous serious errors in conventions</li> <li>• Fails to use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary that is appropriate for audience and purpose to inform about the topic</li> </ul>