

6-Point Rubric for Expository Writing

Use this rubric for writing and assessing expository essays.

Ideas

- 6 The topic, focus, and details make the essay truly memorable.
- 5 The essay is informative, with a clear focus and supporting details.
- 4 The essay is informative, with a clear focus. More supporting details are needed.
- 3 The focus of the essay needs to be clearer, and more supporting details are needed.
- 2 The topic needs to be narrowed or expanded. Many more supporting details are needed.
- 1 The topic has been chosen but needs to be developed.

Organization

- 6 The organization makes the essay easy to read.
- 5 The beginning, middle, and ending work well. Transitions are used.
- 4 The essay's beginning, middle, and ending use some transitions.
- 3 The middle needs transitions and a paragraph for each main point.
- 2 The beginning, middle, and ending all run together. Paragraphs are needed.
- 1 The essay is hard to follow.

Voice

- 6 The writer's voice sounds confident, knowledgeable, and enthusiastic.
- 5 The writer's voice sounds informative and confident.
- 4 The writer's voice sounds well informed most of the time.
- 3 The writer sometimes sounds unsure.
- 2 The writer sounds unsure in many parts.
- 1 The writer needs to sound much more confident.

Word Choice

- 6 The word choice makes the essay clear, informative, and interesting.
- 5 Specific nouns and action verbs make the essay clear and informative.
- 4 Some nouns and verbs could be more specific.
- 3 Too many general words are used. Specific nouns and verbs are needed.
- 2 General or missing words make this essay hard to understand.
- 1 The writer needs help finding specific words.

Sentence Fluency

- 6 The sentences flow smoothly and will hold the reader's interest.
- 5 The sentences flow smoothly and read well aloud.
- 4 Most of the sentences read smoothly, but some are short and choppy.
- 3 Many short, choppy sentences need to be rewritten to make the essay read smoothly.
- 2 Many sentences are choppy or incomplete.
- 1 Many sentences are difficult to follow.

Conventions

- 6 Mastery of conventions gives this essay authority.
- 5 The essay has a few errors in punctuation, spelling, or grammar.
- 4 The essay has several errors in punctuation, spelling, or grammar.
- 3 Some errors confuse the reader.
- 2 Many errors make the essay confusing and hard to read.
- 1 Help is needed to make corrections.