



Informational Writing Rubric

Grade 7

	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 to tell readers the specific topic the piece will explore. 	<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 writing suggests a claim, but it is too vague or unclear to tell the specific topic the writing will explore. 	<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"> This piece of writing provides a specific claim expressing a central idea, which is sometimes called a thesis, and answers the question or prompt fully.
Evidence Weight: 5x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This piece of writing does not yet include the evidence it needs to support the claim. The evidence may be irrelevant to the claim or missing altogether. (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"> Some evidence develops the topic and supports the claim, but other ideas lack the relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples they need for support. (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"> The claim is fully supported with well-chosen, relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information that develop the central idea or thesis and present a thorough picture of the topic. (When reference materials are used, accurate citations are included.)
Reasoning Weight: 5x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The facts and details do not yet have clear explanations to show why they were selected or how they support the claim. This piece of writing does not yet use language closely related to the topic to explain the evidence. The language does not yet strengthen the connections between the evidence and the claim. 	<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"> Explanations connect some facts and details to the claim (main idea), but other facts and details are not fully explained to show their connections to the claim (main idea). Some explanations use precise language related to the topic to explain how the evidence supports the claim, but other explanations are less focused or topic-specific. 	<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 explanations link the facts and details to the claim and effectively show how the evidence supports it. All explanations are written in precise language and vocabulary related to the subject matter to support and strengthen the claim for the reader.
Coherence Weight: 5x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This piece of writing does not yet have an introduction that reveals the topic and the way information will be presented. This piece of writing is not yet organized into a clear structure that supports the claim. This piece of writing does not yet use transitions to connect ideas to one another or to the claim. 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 piece has an introduction that reveals the claim of the writing, but it does not yet have a clear focus that previews the supporting information that will be presented. The information in this piece of writing is organized into topics, but it is not structured in the best strategy to support the claim. Some transitions connect ideas in the writing, but other transitions are missing or inappropriate to link the ideas into a cohesive text. This piece of writing includes a 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 grabs readers' attention with a hook or general observation, narrows to a specific claim that will be the focus of the piece, and previews the plan for development. The writing organizes related facts and details using the most effective strategies such as definition, classification, comparison/contrast, and cause/effect. Formatting, graphics, and multimedia clarify the writing when appropriate. Effective transitions connect ideas to show how the information clearly supports the claim to create a cohesive, unified piece of writing. This piece of writing includes an effective and well-written concluding statement or section.
Audience Appeal Weight: 2x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The writing has an informal style that is not 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. 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 shows a skillful command of the conventions of standard English grammar, usage, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling with very few errors.