



# Informational Writing Rubric

Grade 11

	1 Beginning	2 Approaching	3 Developing	4 Proficient	5 Advanced
<b>Claim</b> Weight: 3x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This piece of writing does not yet present a clear and complete claim to define a complex topic.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The piece of writing exceeds the achievement described in level 1 but has not fully met the criteria for level 3.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The main claim or thesis in this draft is vague, unclear, or does not fully address the complexity or all aspects of the topic.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The piece of writing exceeds the achievement described in level 3 but has not fully met the criteria for level 5.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A specific claim, or thesis, expresses a central idea about a complex topic and answers the question or prompt fully.</li> </ul>
<b>Evidence</b> Weight: 5x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The evidence is absent or not yet sufficient because it appears irrelevant, insignificant, or inappropriate for the draft as it is currently presented. (Citations are not included when required.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The piece of writing exceeds the achievement described in level 1 but has not fully met the criteria for level 3.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sufficient evidence is used to support the claim, but the evidence is not the most significant or relevant to support the overall claim, or it does not show an understanding of the audience or their level of knowledge about the topic. (Citations may be missing or inaccurate when required.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The piece of writing exceeds the achievement described in level 3 but has not fully met the criteria for level 5.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The piece of writing uses the most significant and relevant facts, definitions, details, quotations or other information and examples to develop the topic fully and build upon the audience's knowledge of the topic. (When reference materials are used, accurate citations are included.)</li> </ul>
<b>Reasoning</b> Weight: 5x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The evidence is presented without explanation or analysis, so it fails to support or develop the complex topic.</li> <li>The general language does not yet show a specific understanding of the topic.</li> <li>Complex ideas are not yet explained, and effective techniques do not yet connect evidence to the claim.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The piece of writing exceeds the achievement described in level 1 but has not fully met the criteria for level 3.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some evidence is explained carefully and fully to show its relevance to the claim, but other evidence is not thoroughly analyzed so its support of the claim is unclear.</li> <li>Some complex ideas are explained thoroughly in precise, domain-specific language, while others are described in general language that does not strengthen the connection to the claim by showing a deep understanding of a complex topic.</li> <li>Some explanations use techniques like metaphor, simile, and analogy to clarify ideas, but other complex ideas do not have the detailed explanations or comparisons needed to make them clear for the reader.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The piece of writing exceeds the achievement described in level 3 but has not fully met the criteria for level 5.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detailed analysis of the evidence clarifies the connections between the facts, details, and other examples and the claim and shows how the evidence fully supports and develops the complex topic.</li> <li>Precise vocabulary specific to the topic is used to clarify complex ideas.</li> <li>Effective techniques such as metaphor, simile, and analogy effectively connect the evidence to the complex claim to provide clear explanations for the reader.</li> </ul>
<b>Coherence</b> Weight: 5x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This piece of writing does not yet have a clear introduction to present the topic or the way it will be explored in the writing.</li> <li>This piece of writing is not yet organized into a unified whole in which each topic builds on preceding ideas. Formatting and multimedia devices, if applicable, are not used.</li> <li>This piece of writing does not yet use effective transitions and syntax to connect ideas within the text.</li> <li>This piece does not yet contain a conclusion.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The piece of writing exceeds the achievement described in level 1 but has not fully met the criteria for level 3.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The introduction clearly presents the complex topic and the claim, but it does not suggest how the supporting information will be organized or explored.</li> <li>Some topics build on the information that precedes them, but other topics may lack clear connections to the text as a whole. Headings and multimedia additions, if applicable, do not strengthen the unity of the writing.</li> <li>Effective transitions and syntax are used within paragraphs and sections of text, but transitions between major sections of text are missing or insufficient to link the sections into a unified whole.</li> <li>This piece of writing includes a partial concluding statement or section that is not yet fully related to the information presented or developed into an effective conclusion.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The piece of writing exceeds the achievement described in level 3 but has not fully met the criteria for level 5.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The introduction clearly presents the complex topic and the claim and effectively previews the way the topic will be developed.</li> <li>The writing organizes information cohesively and logically so that each new topic builds on preceding information. Formatting and multimedia devices support the claim when applicable.</li> <li>Accurate and varied transitions and syntax show how the topics relate to each other and support the claim.</li> <li>The writing includes an effective conclusion.</li> </ul>
<b>Audience Appeal</b> Weight: 2x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The writing has an informal style and subjective tone that are 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The writing exceeds the achievement described in level 1 but has not fully met the criteria for level 3.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The style varies from formal to informal with a tone that is subjective and personal at times. 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The writing maintains a formal style and objective tone in addition to a skillful command of the conventions of standard English grammar, usage, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling with very few errors.</li> </ul>