

Rubric for Informative/Explanatory Writing

Cluster 4 and Essay Test

Part I: Topic and Structure

- The topic is a complex idea, not an obvious, overly simple thought.

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- The topic is a complex idea, not an obvious, overly simple thought.
- Ideas, concepts, and information are organized so that each new element builds on previous ideas. The text has unity and focus.

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Part I: Topic and Structure

- The topic is a complex idea, not an obvious, overly simple thought.
- Ideas, concepts, and information are organized so that each new element builds on previous ideas. The text has unity and focus.
- Headings, graphics, charts, and multimedia elements are included where appropriate.

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Part I: Topic and Structure

- The topic is a complex idea, not an obvious, overly simple thought.
- Ideas, concepts, and information are organized so that each new element builds on previous ideas. The text has unity and focus.
- Headings, graphics, charts, and multimedia elements are included where appropriate.
- The conclusion follows logically from the information presented. It supports the topic clearly and may provide insight into the importance of the topic.

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Part II: Topic Development

- The topic is thoroughly developed, not glossed over.

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- The topic is thoroughly developed, not glossed over.
- Only the most relevant and significant facts are used to support and develop the topic.

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- The topic is thoroughly developed, not glossed over.
- Only the most relevant and significant facts are used to support and develop the topic.
- Extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, and examples add further support to the topic.

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Part II: Topic Development

- The topic is thoroughly developed, not glossed over.
- Only the most relevant and significant facts are used to support and develop the topic.
- Extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, and examples add further support to the topic.
- The supporting details are appropriate for the audience's knowledge about the topic.

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Part III: Transitions and Flow

- Appropriate and varied transitions link major sections of the text.

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- Appropriate and varied transitions link major sections of the text.
- Transitions create cohesion, the sense that everything belongs together and is ordered logically.

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Part III: Transitions and Flow

- Appropriate and varied transitions link major sections of the text.
- Transitions create cohesion, the sense that everything belongs together and is ordered logically.
- Transitions clarify the relationships between complex ideas and concepts that support the topic.

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Cluster 4 and Essay Test

Part IV: Effective Language and Tone

- The language is precise, not overly general.

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- The language is precise, not overly general.
- Relevant vocabulary terms are introduced and defined as necessary.

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Part IV: Effective Language and Tone

- The language is precise, not overly general.
- Relevant vocabulary terms are introduced and defined as necessary.
- Figures of speech such as metaphors, similes, and analogies are used to explain complex relationships.

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Part IV: Effective Language and Tone

- The language is precise, not overly general.
- Relevant vocabulary terms are introduced and defined as necessary.
- Figures of speech such as metaphors, similes, and analogies are used to explain complex relationships.
- The writing maintains a formal style and an objective tone.

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Part IV: Effective Language and Tone

- The language is precise, not overly general.
- Relevant vocabulary terms are introduced and defined as necessary.
- Figures of speech such as metaphors, similes, and analogies are used to explain complex relationships.
- The writing maintains a formal style and an objective tone.
- The text follows standard norms and conventions, including standard English grammar, usage, and mechanics.