

Holistic Rubric for Grades 4-5: Informative/Explanatory Writing

This holistic rubric guides the evaluation of a student response by providing descriptions of sample characteristics for each score point. ELA/L responses are scored for both written expression and written conventions. A score is based on an overall analysis of what is included in a student’s response rather than what is missing. It is not necessary for a response to include all the sample characteristics.

WRITTEN EXPRESSION

Points	Sample Characteristics
4 Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates a full and complete understanding of ideas in the texts by providing an accurate analysis supported with effective and convincing textual evidence. • Examines a topic and conveys ideas and information accurately and clearly. • Develops clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. • Includes ideas that are presented clearly and logically from beginning to end; there are strong connections between and among ideas.
3 Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates an adequate understanding of ideas in the texts by providing a mostly accurate analysis supported with adequate textual evidence. • Examines a topic and conveys ideas and information clearly. • Develops mostly clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are mostly appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. • Includes ideas that are presented from beginning to end; there are connections between and among ideas.

Points	Sample Characteristics
2 Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates basic understanding of ideas in the texts by providing a generally accurate analysis supported with basic textual evidence. • Examines a topic and generally conveys ideas and information. • Develops generally clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are generally appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. • Includes ideas that are generally clear and logical but may be uneven; there are general connections between and among ideas.
1 Point	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates limited understanding of ideas in the texts by providing a minimally accurate analysis supported with limited textual evidence. • Shows limited examination of the topic and minimally conveys ideas and information. • Shows limited development of writing in which the development, organization, and style are limited to task, purpose, and audience. • Includes ideas that are limited; there are minimally effective connections between and among ideas.
0 Point	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates no understanding of ideas in the texts. The response provides inaccurate or no analysis and no textual evidence. • Examines and conveys missing or inaccurate ideas and information. • Lacks coherent writing, organization, and style for the task, purpose, and audience. • Includes ideas that are inappropriate, inaccurate, or ideas are missing; there are few or no connections between and among ideas.

WRITTEN CONVENTIONS

Points	Sample Characteristics
3 Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The response demonstrates a full command of conventions of standard English at the appropriate level of complexity.• Sentence structures are varied, well-formed, and effectively controlled.• Grammar and usage are strong and effective, enhancing the content of the response.• Spelling, punctuation, and capitalization are mostly correct.
2 Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The response demonstrates a partial command of conventions of standard English at the appropriate level of complexity.• Sentence structures show some variety and are generally controlled.• Grammar and usage may be uneven and may occasionally impede understanding.• Spelling, punctuation, and capitalization are generally correct.
1 Point	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The response demonstrates little command of conventions of standard English at the appropriate level of complexity.• Sentence structure and control are limited.• Errors in grammar and usage may be frequent and may impede understanding.• Spelling, punctuation, and capitalization may be incorrect and/or unclear.
0 Point	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The response does not demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English at the appropriate level of complexity.• Frequent and varied errors in mechanics, grammar, and usage impede understanding.