

GRADE 8 – INFORMATIVE/EXPLANATORY WRITING STUDENT RUBRIC

✓ = GREAT JOB

✓ = ALMOST THERE

— = ROOM TO GROW

See how you grow				Ask yourself: <i>Did I...?</i>
Focus on Task and Text	<input type="checkbox"/> ✓	<input type="checkbox"/> ✓	<input type="checkbox"/> —	<input type="checkbox"/> complete all parts of the prompt, and answer each part completely?
	<input type="checkbox"/> ✓	<input type="checkbox"/> ✓	<input type="checkbox"/> —	<input type="checkbox"/> use a tone that fits the writing task and audience?)Examples: humorous, suspenseful)
				show insight into the topic or text by
	<input type="checkbox"/> ✓	<input type="checkbox"/> ✓	<input type="checkbox"/> —	<input type="checkbox"/> discussing relevant details, events, facts and ideas?
	<input type="checkbox"/> ✓	<input type="checkbox"/> ✓	<input type="checkbox"/> —	<input type="checkbox"/> connecting ideas and information from several different information sources?
Organization	<input type="checkbox"/> ✓	<input type="checkbox"/> ✓	<input type="checkbox"/> —	<input type="checkbox"/> introduce the topic clearly, in a way that orients readers and tells them what to expect?
	<input type="checkbox"/> ✓	<input type="checkbox"/> ✓	<input type="checkbox"/> —	<input type="checkbox"/> use logical structures to organize information? (Examples: definition, classification, comparison/contrast, and cause/effect)
	<input type="checkbox"/> ✓	<input type="checkbox"/> ✓	<input type="checkbox"/> —	<input type="checkbox"/> use text features to help readers understand my ideas and information, such as formatting, graphics, multimedia? Examples of formatting: headings, bullets, text boxes Examples of graphics: illustrations or photographs; charts, maps or timelines Examples of multimedia: audio, video, weblinks
				use many different appropriate transition words to
	<input type="checkbox"/> ✓	<input type="checkbox"/> ✓	<input type="checkbox"/> —	<input type="checkbox"/> connect my ideas?
	<input type="checkbox"/> ✓	<input type="checkbox"/> ✓	<input type="checkbox"/> —	<input type="checkbox"/> clarify relationships between ideas?
	<input type="checkbox"/> ✓	<input type="checkbox"/> ✓	<input type="checkbox"/> —	<input type="checkbox"/> organize my ideas and information in a way that fits together logically and is clear?
	<input type="checkbox"/> ✓	<input type="checkbox"/> ✓	<input type="checkbox"/> —	<input type="checkbox"/> end with a conclusion that fits with my information or explanation?

See how you grow				Ask yourself: <i>Did I...?</i>
Development and Support	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> develop and explain the topic with relevant and specific details. (Examples: facts, definitions, quotations, examples, quantitative details when appropriate)
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> include evidence from text to support my ideas and information?
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> check that my sources are reliable and accurate?
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> quote or paraphrase accurately and credit the author and text correctly?
Language	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> use formal style (school language, no slang, etc.) throughout the writing?
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> use precise language? (Example: Avoid overly general words like <i>nice, fun, pretty</i> .)
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> use domain-specific language? (Example: Words particular to a topic or setting, such as unusual animals in that place.)
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> use words that fit my audience and writing purpose? (Example: to explain the animals of Africa to visitors)
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> include different kinds of sentences so my writing is clear and interesting?
Conventions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> use the rules I know about writing, including grammar?
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> check my writing so that it has no errors?
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> use many different verb types correctly? (Examples: active, passive and conditional verb tenses such as: <i>considered; were considered; consider this; If I were to consider</i>)
				follow writing rules to correctly use
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> punctuation to show a pause or break? (Examples: comma, dash)
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> an ellipsis to show something has been left out?
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> the rules I know to spell correctly?