**Utah Compose Informational/Explanatory Student Rubric**

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| **Writing Analysis** | **5** | **4** | **3** | **2** | **1** |
| **Development of Ideas** | * This essay is clear, controlled and focused, and is appropriate for the task, purpose, and audience. * Your essay has balance and exhibits good control of connections between ideas. * You have expressed your ideas in a convincing manner by providing ample support. * Your essay holds the reader's attention through details, facts, examples, anecdotes, and description that enrich your main idea. * You have used appropriate literary strategies or techniques to develop your essay. * You have an introduction and concluding statement or section that are effectively connected to the rest of the essay. * An effective introduction and conclusion leave the reader with a sense of completeness. | You have used enough support to develop your ideas.  You have used specific reasons, facts, examples, details, and/or description to make your essay or story clear.  Your writing is clear and focused.  Your essay or story moves fairly smoothly from introduction to conclusion.  You have an introduction and concluding statement or section that are clearly connected to the rest of the essay or narrative.  Your writing has balance and moves along evenly. | * Have you used specific details to support your essay? * Have you used enough supporting reasons, facts, examples, details, and/or descriptions for your explanation? * Did you keep your task, purpose and audience in mind? * Have you used appropriate literary strategies or techniques to develop your essay? * Does your essay have a clear conclusion? * Are your ideas thoughtful and interesting? * Do you have an introduction and concluding statement or section that are clearly connected to the rest of the essay? * Are your linking words and phrases clear and helpful in connecting your ideas? * Is your essay appropriate for its task, purpose and audience? | * Have you made your main idea clear? * Have you done more than just list or repeat the details in your essay? * Are your reasons, examples, details and/or descriptions clear and enough to fully develop your ideas? * Does your essay have sufficient information to explain your position? * Does your essay have a conclusion? * Have you done more than just list or repeat the details in your essay? * Do you have an introduction and concluding statement or section that are connected to the rest of the essay? * Can the reader easily follow what you are saying? | * Have you written enough to achieve a higher score? * Have you expressed your main idea clearly? * Did the details you included fit with the subject you were talking about? * Have you added details to make your essay better? * Do you have an introduction and concluding statement or section? * Have you used any literary strategies or techniques to develop your essay? |
| **Organization** | * Your essay is appropriate for its task, purpose and audience. * The transitions or connections between your ideas are seamless and smooth. * Your essay is carefully organized with well-placed details from beginning to end. * The writing is well balanced and moves along smoothly. * The organization of this essay enhances and highlights the main idea. | * You have a clear introduction and conclusion that connect to the main idea. * The transitions between your ideas are appropriate and work well. * The details are generally well placed and relevant to the main idea. * The transitions between ideas are appropriate and work well. * Your introduction and conclusion are functional and connected to the main idea. | * Have you worked on making the transitions or connections between your ideas better? * Does the placement and relevance of your details cause any confusion? * Does your essay progress logically from one idea to the next? * Have you written a clear introduction and conclusion to your essay? | * Can the reader easily follow what you are saying? * Do all your paragraphs connect to the central idea? * Is your information sorted into paragraphs that each talk about just one thing? * Have you used linking words to connect your ideas? | * Did you create a plan for your essay before you started writing? * Have you written enough that there is some organization evident? * Are your ideas clear and linked together with transitions? * Are there any gaps in information that might confuse the reader? * Have you been careful not to ramble and jump from one idea to another? |
| **Style** | * Your writing fits the topic, purpose, and readers. * Your use of language is natural and brings the topic to life. * Your individual style is felt throughout the essay or story. * Your writing makes the reader want to read more. | * Your writing fits the task, purpose, and readers. * Your writing makes a connection with the reader. * You seem to be involved in the topic. * Your writing sounds like you | * Does your writing fit the task, purpose, and readers? * Are your ideas clear and easy to follow? * Have you used your own ideas and made your essay interesting? * Do you have enough details? | * Have you explained your ideas clearly? * Have you written your essay with your task, purpose, and readers in mind? * Does your writing sound like you? | * Have you written enough? * Have you thought carefully about your reason for writing about this topic? * Is your topic clear? |
| **Writing Analysis** | **5** | **4** | **3** | **2** | **1** |
| **Word Choice** | * The words convey the intended message in an interesting and precise way. * The words are specific and accurate. * Your vocabulary is vivid, natural and not overdone. * Excellent word choice gives this essay power. | * Are there places where, though correct, the words lack excitement? * Though your vocabulary is natural, are there places where it might be overdone? * The writing in this essay is clear and easy to interpret, but it may not always be succinct. * The word choice in this essay conveys the message in a realistic and reasonable way. | * Does the language in your essay, though generally correct, lack precision? * Does your paper have clichés, redundancies or overused phrases? * Is there any colorful or poetic language used effectively to engage the reader? * Are there places where the essay seems to be generic or ordinary? | * Do the words you have used lack specificity? * Are the words in your essay general or dull? * Do you repeat the same general phrases over and over? | * Have you chosen the correct words to express your ideas and to make the meaning of each sentence clear? * Are you sure that the verbs, nouns and adjectives you used were the correct ones? * Do you repeat the same words or phrases over and over? * Are the words you have chosen specific and grade-appropriate? |
| **Sentence Structure** | * The writing in this essay is very natural and fluent. * The amount of sentence variety present in this essay makes the text interesting. * The writing is concise and effective in conveying your meaning. | * Generally, the sentences in this essay are well crafted. * The writing in the essay moves along at a fairly consistent pace. * You show control of both simple and complex syntax. * This essay contains a variety of sentence structures and lengths. | * Are there errors in the construction of more complex sentences? * Is there a pattern of the same type of sentence throughout the essay? * Are there places where awkward sentences force the reader to slow down? * Do the sentences flow smoothly one after the other or are they stilted? | * Are all of your sentences complete? * Have you used correct grammar throughout your essay or story? * Have you used different kinds of sentences? * Do all of your sentences sound the same? | * Are the sentences you have written correct ones, or were there run-ons, fragments, and/or comma splices? * Have you used correct grammar throughout your essay? * Are your sentences choppy or awkward? * Do any of your sentences cause confusion? |
| **Conventions** | You have demonstrated a good grasp of standard writing conventions.  This essay is sufficiently long and complex and shows command of a wide range of conventions.  Errors in spelling, grammar and punctuation are few, if any, and they do not interrupt the flow of reading. | * Although there may be some errors, you have demonstrated an overall grasp of standard writing conventions. * The spelling of common words is correct but may not be consistent for the more difficult ones. * This essay is fairly long but the writing could show more evidence of complexity. | * Have you made some spelling, punctuation and/or capitalization errors that might cause some confusion for the reader? * Have you written enough to show that you have control of spelling, punctuation and/or capitalization? * Do you have consistent control over the paragraphing in your essay? | * Are there mistakes in your essay or story that make it hard to understand? * Have you made sure that your spelling, punctuation and capitalization are correct? * Have you used paragraphs correctly? | * Do the number of errors seriously interfere with communication and make it difficult for the reader to understand what you are trying to say? * Have you made sure that your spelling, punctuation and capitalization are correct? * Have you used paragraphs correctly? |