Grade 4 Informative/Explanatory Rubric

	Prompt Task	Development of Explanation	Organization	Language Use
5	Topic(s) and purpose of explanation are clear from the start. Successfully uses ample relevant evidence from provided texts to support the explanation.	Explains topic(s) completely. Effectively uses ample specific and relevant facts, definitions, details, examples, and/or other appropriate information in the explanation.	Has a clear, well-developed introduction. Provides a logical concluding statement or section. Organizes ideas effectively, clearly grouping related ideas together throughout the response. Consistently uses varied linking words and phrases to connect ideas.	Uses precise and varied word choice. Employs topic-specific vocabulary successfully. Uses well-controlled sentences that are varied in length and complexity.
4	Topic(s) and purpose of explanation are clear. Appropriately uses some evidence from provided texts to support the explanation.	Explains topic(s) adequately. Explanation includes some specific and relevant facts, definitions, details, examples, and/or other appropriate information.	Has a clear, somewhat developed introduction. Provides a clear concluding statement or section. Organizes ideas adequately, grouping related ideas together throughout the response. Consistently uses simple and/or repetitive linking words and phrases to connect ideas.	Uses mostly specific and somewhat varied word choice. Occasionally employs topic-specific vocabulary successfully. Demonstrates adequate control of sentences with some variety in length and structure.
3	Topic(s) and purpose of explanation are apparent within the response as a whole. Evidence from provided texts is used but is limited, overused, or misrepresented.	Explains topic(s) to a limited extent or the explanation is developed unevenly. Explanation includes few or only general facts, details, and examples. Some information may be repetitious or may not be clearly relevant.	Provides a basic introduction and basic concluding statement or section. Generally groups related ideas together, though parts of the response may be out of place. Sometimes uses linking words and phrases to connect ideas.	Uses general word choice. Attempts to employ topic-specific vocabulary may be unsuccessful. Demonstrates a little variety in sentence structure, although there may be a few long, uncontrolled sentences.

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	Prompt Task	Development of Explanation	Organization	Language Use
2	Topic(s) and purpose of explanation are unclear or otherwise confusing. Attempts to use evidence from provided texts are unsuccessful (text sections are lifted exactly, misunderstood, or not relevant to the ideas they are used in support of).	Explains topic(s) by providing some information but explanation is minimal and/or superficial, and parts may be repetitious or not relevant.	Has minimal evidence of an introduction and/or a concluding statement or section. Groups a few related ideas together within the response but overall demonstrates weak organization skills. Use of linking words and/or phrases to connect ideas lacks control and may cause confusion.	Uses simple and/or repetitive word choice. Uses repetitive sentence structure and/or long, uncontrolled sentences.
1	Topic(s) and purpose of explanation are never indicated. No attempt is made to use evidence from provided texts to support the explanation.	Development of topic(s) lacks explanation of ideas, only repeats ideas, or most ideas are not relevant. May demonstrate a lack of understanding of the purpose of explanatory writing.	Lacks an introduction and a concluding statement or section. Demonstrates no understanding of organization (or response may be too short to assess). Does not use linking words and/or phrases to connect ideas.	Uses awkward, incorrect, and/or confusing word choice and sentence structure.