

Grade 8 Scoring Standard for Expository Writing

<p>Expository writing explains or informs. An expository essay will have an introduction, body, and conclusion.</p> <p>Writing Assessment Traits</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">4 Advanced: Exceeds Standards</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3 Proficient: Meets Standards</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2 Basic: Below Standards</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1 Below Basic: Significantly Below Standards</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">The score indicates the student’s response to a particular prompt on a particular day.</p>			
	<p>This essay is advanced and above grade level. It demonstrates an understanding of expository writing. The writer’s use of language contributes to the development of an engaging essay.</p>	<p>This essay is proficient and at grade level. It demonstrates an understanding of expository writing. The writer’s use of language contributes to the development of a clear and concise essay.</p>	<p>This essay is basic and below grade level. It demonstrates a basic understanding of expository writing. The writer’s use of language results in an essay that is underdeveloped and/or clearly flawed.</p>	<p>This essay is below basic and significantly below grade level. It demonstrates fundamental deficiencies in the writer’s understanding of expository writing. It may be written off topic, written in a language other than English, or not written in black ink.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">4 This paper generally exhibits the characteristics listed below.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3 This paper generally exhibits the characteristics listed below.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2 This paper generally exhibits the characteristics listed below.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1 This paper generally exhibits the characteristics listed below.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Ideas</p> <p>Ideas are the focus of the essay that, with relevant supporting details, build the reader’s understanding.</p>	<p>Ideas are well developed and use specific, relevant details.</p>	<p>Ideas are clearly developed with supporting details.</p>	<p>Ideas are unclear and/or underdeveloped; details lack relevance.</p>	<p>A response is attempted, but writing lacks focus and details.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Organization</p> <p>Organization, the internal structure of an essay, includes the introduction, body, and conclusion. Additionally, transitions within the writing connect the ideas in a logical sequence.</p>	<p>Information is deliberately organized to enhance the central idea and move the reader through the text.</p>	<p>Information is presented in a logical sequence with natural transitions.</p>	<p>Information is presented as a list or as disconnected ideas.</p>	<p>Control of organization is limited.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Voice</p> <p>Voice is the presence of the writer on the page. It is the sense that a real person who cares about the message is speaking to the reader.</p>	<p>Voice and word choice are powerful and confident, demonstrating an awareness of audience.</p>	<p>Voice and word choice are appropriate for topic and audience.</p>	<p>Word choice is simplistic. Essay lacks voice and audience awareness.</p>	<p>Word choice is limited or inaccurate with no awareness of audience.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Word Choice</p> <p>Word Choice is the precise use of words. Strong word choice is characterized by the ability to use common words effectively.</p>				
<p style="text-align: center;">Sentence Fluency</p> <p>Effective sentence construction creates an easy flow and rhythm to the writing. The writing is free of word patterns that interfere with readability.</p>	<p>Sentences flow smoothly with consistently strong and varied structure.</p>	<p>Control over varied sentence construction contributes to sentence fluency.</p>	<p>Awkward sentence construction demonstrates limited control and inhibits fluency.</p>	<p>Sentence construction lacks control and fluency.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Conventions</p> <p>Conventions (grammar and usage, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and paragraphing) are the mechanical correctness of an essay.</p>	<p>Minor errors in grammar, spelling and conventions do not interfere with understanding.</p>	<p>Errors in grammar, spelling and conventions do not interfere with understanding.</p>	<p>Errors in grammar, spelling and conventions may interfere with understanding.</p>	<p>Errors in grammar, spelling and conventions make understanding difficult.</p>