



PRoPL Writing Rubrics

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GRADE 3 OPINION ESSAY RUBRIC

	4	3	2	1
Purpose & Organization	<p>The response is logically and effectively organized; it conveys the writer’s opinion in a complete and unified way. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Effectively introduces the topic •Explicitly states a point of view/opinion •Effectively organizes reasons for the point of view/opinion in an easily identifiable way •Effectively transitions from one point to another using basic transitional words and phrases (e.g., because, therefore, since, for example) •Effectively concludes in a logical and unified way 	<p>The response is adequately and generally organized; it conveys the writer’s opinion but lacks an overall sense of unity. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Clearly states the topic •Explicitly states a point of view/opinion •Generally organizes reasons for the point of view/opinion but may be repetitive or stray from time to time •Uses some transitions to connect ideas •Clearly communicates a conclusion but may lack a sense of completeness 	<p>The response is partially or inconsistently organized and/or lacks obvious organization; it may have a basic controlling point of view that is ineffectively communicated. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Attempts to introduce the topic and/or restates the prompt but may lack clarity •States a point of view/opinion that may be ambiguous or confusing •Lacks an obvious organizational structure, although some grouping of ideas may be present •Uses little or no transitional strategies •Includes a statement that represents an ending, but the statement may not accurately or adequately sum up the writer’s main points 	<p>The response is related to the topic but lacks organizational structure. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •States a topic that may be ambiguous or confusing •Fails to state a point of view/opinion •Lacks an organizational structure •Fails to connect ideas that support the author’s opinion •Lacks a statement that concludes and summarizes the writer’s opinion
	Support & Elaboration	<p>The response demonstrates a thorough understanding of the topic; it effectively and thoroughly develops, explains, and supports the writer’s opinion with reasons. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Effectively supports the writer’s opinion with multiple reasons •Effectively elaborates on each reason that supports the writer’s opinion 	<p>The response demonstrates adequate understanding of the topic; it develops, explains, and supports the writer’s opinion with some reasons. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Uses some reasons as support for the writer’s opinion but may be more general than specific •Elaborates on most reasons that support the writer’s opinion 	<p>The response demonstrates inconsistencies in understanding the topic; it develops, explains, and/or supports some reasons for the writer’s opinion. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Uses minimal reasons as support for the writer’s opinion •Attempts to elaborate on the reasons for the writer’s opinion, but elaboration is weak or faulty

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1

0

Conventions

The response demonstrates mastery of basic conventions, including punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation, spelling, grammar, and usage. If minor errors occur, they do not detract from the overall intent or effectiveness of the response.

The response demonstrates a partial mastery of basic conventions, including punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation, spelling, grammar, and usage. Various errors may detract from the overall intent or effectiveness of the response.

The response demonstrates little understanding of basic conventions, including punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation, spelling, grammar, and usage. The frequency and severity of errors disrupt the effectiveness of the response.

A response is Not Scorable (NS) if it is characterized by any of the following features:

- The response is blank.
 - The response is merely a copy of the prompt.
 - The response is merely a copy of parts of the stimulus.
 - The response is written in a language other than English.
 - The response is off topic, off task, or offensive.
 - The response is illegible or incomprehensible.
-

GRADE 3 INFORMATIVE ESSAY RUBRIC

	4	3	2	1
Purpose & Organization	<p>The response is logically and effectively organized; it completely conveys the writer’s ideas in a unified way. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Effectively introduces the topic •Effectively connects and organizes related ideas and information in an easily identifiable way •Effectively transitions from one point to another using basic transitional words and phrases (e.g., and, but, or, also, another, too) •Effectively concludes in a logical and unified way 	<p>The response is adequately and generally organized; it conveys the writer’s ideas but lacks an overall sense of unity. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Clearly states the topic •Generally organizes related ideas and information but may be repetitive or stray from time to time •Uses some transitions to connect ideas •Clearly communicates a conclusion but may lack a sense of completeness 	<p>The response is partially or inconsistently organized and/or lacks obvious organization; it may have a basic controlling idea that is ineffectively communicated. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Attempts to introduce the topic and/or restates the prompt but may lack clarity •Lacks an obvious organizational structure, although some grouping of ideas may be present •Uses little or no transitional strategies •Includes a statement that represents an ending, but the statement may not accurately or adequately sum up main points 	<p>The response is related to the topic but lacks organizational structure. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •States a topic that may be ambiguous or confusing •Lacks an organizational structure •Fails to connect ideas •Lacks a statement that concludes and summarizes the main points
	Support & Elaboration	<p>The response demonstrates a thorough understanding of the topic; it effectively and thoroughly develops, explains, and supports the writer’s ideas. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Effectively uses multiple facts, definitions, and/or details to support main points •Effectively explains and elaborates on main points <p>Note: Text evidence is not required at G3.</p>	<p>The response demonstrates adequate understanding of the topic; it develops, explains, and supports most ideas. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Uses facts, definitions, and/or details as support but may be more general than specific •Explains most of the main points <p>Note: Text evidence is not required at G3.</p>	<p>The response demonstrates inconsistencies in understanding the topic; it develops, explains, and/or supports some ideas. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Uses minimal facts, definitions, and/or details to support main points •Attempts to explain main points, but explanation is weak or faulty <p>Note: Text evidence is not required at G3.</p>

	2	1	0
Conventions	The response demonstrates mastery of basic conventions, including punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation, spelling, grammar, and usage. If minor errors occur, they do not detract from the overall intent or effectiveness of the response.	The response demonstrates a partial mastery of basic conventions, including punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation, spelling, grammar, and usage. Various errors may detract from the overall intent or effectiveness of the response.	The response demonstrates little understanding of basic conventions, including punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation, spelling, grammar, and usage. The frequency and severity of errors disrupt the effectiveness of the response.

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- The response is blank.
- The response is merely a copy of the prompt.
- The response is merely a copy of parts of the stimulus.
- The response is written in a language other than English.
- The response is off topic, off task, or offensive.
- The response is illegible or incomprehensible.

GRADE 3 NARRATIVE ESSAY RUBRIC

	4	3	2	1
Purpose & Organization	<p>The response is logically and effectively organized; it conveys a narrative in a complete and unified way. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Effectively establishes characters and/or a narrator as directed by the prompt •Effectively organizes a sequence of events that unfolds naturally •Effectively uses temporal words and phrases to signal event order (e.g., before, after, then, next, at first) •Effectively concludes in a logical and unified way 	<p>The response is adequately and generally organized; it conveys a narrative but lacks an overall sense of unity. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Introduces characters and/or a narrator as directed by the prompt •Includes events that proceed in an order that is typical for a narrative •Uses some temporal words and phrases to move from event to event •Provides an ending that conforms with the rest of the narrative 	<p>The response is partially or inconsistently organized and/or lacks obvious organization; it may not convey a complete narrative. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Includes characters and/or a narrator that may not completely conform with the directions in the prompt •Includes a basic set of events but may structure them in an illogical way •Uses few if any temporal words and phrases to move from event to event •Provides an ending that may not logically conclude the narrative 	<p>The response is related to the topic but lacks organizational structure. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Fails to establish characters and/or a narrator that conforms with the directions in the prompt •Lacks a recognizable narrative structure •Uses no temporal words or phrases that help move through the narrative •Lacks an ending to the narrative
	Support & Elaboration	<p>The response thoroughly develops characters and/or a narrator; it effectively and thoroughly elaborates on the sequence of events. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Effectively uses dialogue to support character and/or narrator development •Effectively conveys the actions, thoughts, and feelings of characters through detailed descriptions 	<p>The response demonstrates adequate development of characters and/or a narrator; it describes a sequence of events. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Uses some dialogue among and between characters •Conveys some actions, thoughts, and feelings of some characters through descriptions 	<p>The response includes superficial development of characters and/or a narrator; it includes events that are part of a story. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Uses little or no dialogue among and between characters •Conveys some actions, thoughts, and/or feelings of some characters, but in a superficial way

2

1

0

Conventions

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A response is Not Scorable (NS) if it is characterized by any of the following features:

- The response is blank.
 - The response is merely a copy of the prompt.
 - The response is merely a copy of parts of the stimulus.
 - The response is written in a language other than English.
 - The response is off topic, off task, or offensive.
 - The response is illegible or incomprehensible.
-

GRADE 4 & 5 OPINION ESSAY RUBRIC

	4	3	2	1
Purpose & Organization	<p>The response is logically and effectively organized; it conveys the writer's opinion in a complete and unified way. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Effectively introduces the topic •Explicitly states a point of view/opinion •Effectively organizes reasons and evidence for the point of view/opinion in an easily identifiable way •Effectively transitions from one point to another using transitional words, phrases, and/or clauses (e.g., consequently, specifically, for instance, in order to, in addition, Because . . . , Since . . .) •Effectively concludes in a logical and unified way 	<p>The response is adequately and generally organized; it conveys the writer's opinion but lacks an overall sense of unity. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Clearly states the topic •Explicitly states a point of view/opinion •Generally organize reasons and evidence for the point of view/opinion but may be repetitive or stray from time to time •Uses some transitional words, phrases, and/or clauses to connect ideas •Clearly communicates a conclusion but may lack a sense of completeness 	<p>The response is partially or inconsistently organized and/or lacks obvious organization; it may have a basic controlling point of view that is ineffectively communicated. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Attempts to introduce the topic and/or restates the prompt but may lack clarity •States a point of view/opinion that may be ambiguous or confusing •Lacks an obvious organizational structure, although some grouping of reasons and/or evidence may be present •Uses little or no transitional strategies •Includes a statement that represents an ending, but the statement may not accurately or adequately sum up the writer's main points 	<p>The response is related to the topic but lacks organizational structure. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •States a topic that may be ambiguous or confusing •Fails to state a point of view/opinion •Lacks an organizational structure for reasons and/or evidence •Fails to connect ideas that support the author's opinion •Lacks a statement that concludes and summarizes the writer's opinion
Evidence & Elaboration	<p>The response demonstrates a thorough understanding of the topic; it effectively and thoroughly develops, explains, and supports the writer's opinion with reasons and evidence. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Effectively supports the writer's opinion with multiple reasons •Effectively elaborates on each reason and supports each reason with evidence 	<p>The response demonstrates adequate understanding of the topic; it develops, explains, and supports the writer's opinion with reasons and evidence. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Uses some reasons as support for the writer's opinion but may be more general than specific •Elaborates on most reasons using supporting evidence that supports the writer's opinion 	<p>The response demonstrates inconsistencies in understanding the topic; it develops, explains, and/or supports the writer's opinion with some reasons and/or evidence. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Uses minimal reasons as support for the writer's opinion •Provides insufficient or faulty elaboration and/or supporting evidence 	<p>The response minimally or inadequately addresses the topic; it states an opinion with little or no development, support, or elaboration. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Provides a reason for the writer's opinion •Fails to elaborate on the reason for the writer's opinion and/or fails to use supporting evidence

	2	1	0
Conventions	The response demonstrates mastery of basic conventions, including punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation, spelling, grammar, and usage. If minor errors occur, they do not detract from the overall intent or effectiveness of the response.	The response demonstrates a partial mastery of basic conventions, including punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation, spelling, grammar, and usage. Various errors may detract from the overall intent or effectiveness of the response.	The response demonstrates little understanding of basic conventions, including punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation, spelling, grammar, and usage. The frequency and severity of errors disrupt the effectiveness of the response.

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- The response is off topic, off task, or offensive.
- The response is illegible or incomprehensible.

GRADE 4 & 5 INFORMATIVE ESSAY RUBRIC

	4	3	2	1
Purpose & Organization	<p>The response is logically and effectively organized; it conveys the writer's ideas in a complete and unified way. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Effectively introduces the topic •Effectively connects and organizes related ideas and information in cohesive paragraphs •Effectively transitions from one point to another using basic transitional words, phrases and/or clauses (e.g., another, also, because, especially, for example, in contrast, Because . . ., Since . . .) •Effectively concludes in a logical and unified way 	<p>The response is adequately and generally organized; it conveys the writer's ideas but lacks an overall sense of unity. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Clearly states the topic •Generally organizes related ideas and information into paragraphs •Uses some transitional words, phrases, and/or clauses to connect ideas •Clearly communicates a conclusion but may lack a sense of completeness 	<p>The response is partially or inconsistently organized and/or lacks obvious organization; it may have a basic controlling idea that is ineffectively communicated. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Attempts to introduce the topic and/or restates the prompt but may lack clarity •Lacks an obvious organizational structure, although some grouping of ideas may be present •Uses little or no transitional strategies •Includes a statement that represents an ending, but the statement may not accurately or adequately sum up main points 	<p>The response is related to the topic but lacks organizational structure. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •States a topic that may be ambiguous or confusing •Lacks an organizational structure •Fails to connect ideas •Lacks a statement that concludes and summarizes the main points
	Evidence & Elaboration	<p>The response demonstrates a thorough understanding of the topic; it effectively and thoroughly develops, explains, and supports ideas. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Effectively uses multiple facts, definitions, concrete details, and/or quotations from the text to support main points •Effectively explains and elaborates on main points •Effectively uses precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic 	<p>The response demonstrates adequate understanding of the topic; it develops, explains, and supports most ideas. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Uses some facts, definitions, concrete details, and/or quotations from the text as support but may be more general than specific •Explains most of the main points •Uses some precise language and/or domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic 	<p>The response demonstrates inconsistencies in understanding the topic; it develops, explains, and/or supports some ideas. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Uses some facts, definitions, concrete details, and/or quotations from the text to support some ideas •Attempts to explain main points, but explanation is weak or faulty •Uses general language and general vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic

	2	1	0
Conventions	The response demonstrates mastery of basic conventions, including punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation, spelling, grammar, and usage. If minor errors occur, they do not detract from the overall intent or effectiveness of the response.	The response demonstrates a partial mastery of basic conventions, including punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation, spelling, grammar, and usage. Various errors may detract from the overall intent or effectiveness of the response.	The response demonstrates little understanding of basic conventions, including punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation, spelling, grammar, and usage. The frequency and severity of errors disrupt the effectiveness of the response.

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- The response is merely a copy of parts of the stimulus.
- The response is written in a language other than English.
- The response is off topic, off task, or offensive.
- The response is illegible or incomprehensible.

GRADE 4 & 5 NARRATIVE ESSAY RUBRIC

	4	3	2	1
Purpose & Organization	<p>The response is logically and effectively organized; it conveys a narrative in a complete and unified way. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Effectively establishes characters and/or a narrator as directed by the prompt •Effectively organizes a sequence of events that unfolds naturally •Effectively uses a variety of transitional words, phrases, and clauses to manage the sequence of events •Effectively concludes the narrative in a logical way 	<p>The response is adequately and generally organized; it conveys a narrative but lacks an overall sense of unity. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Introduces characters and/or a narrator as directed by the prompt •Includes events that proceed in an order that is typical for a narrative •Uses some transitional words, phrases, and/or clauses to manage the sequence of events •Provides an ending that conforms with the rest of the narrative 	<p>The response is partially or inconsistently organized and/or lacks obvious organization; it may not convey a complete narrative. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Includes characters and/or a narrator that may not completely conform with the directions in the prompt •Includes a basic set of events but may structure them in an illogical way •Uses little or no transitions to manage the sequences of events •Provides an ending that may not logically conclude the narrative 	<p>The response is related to the topic but lacks organizational structure. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Fails to establish characters and/or a narrator that conforms with the directions in the prompt •Lacks a recognizable narrative structure •Uses no transitions between or among parts of the narrative •Lacks an ending to the narrative
	Support & Elaboration	<p>The response thoroughly develops characters and/or a narrator; it effectively and thoroughly elaborates on the sequence of events. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Effectively uses dialogue and description to develop experiences and events or show the responses of characters to situations •Effectively uses concrete words and phrases and sensory details to convey experiences and events precisely 	<p>The response demonstrates adequate development of characters and/or a narrator; it describes a sequence of events. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Uses dialogue and/or description to develop some experiences and events or show the responses of some characters to situations •Uses some concrete words and phrases and sensory details to describe experiences and events 	<p>The response includes superficial development of characters and/or a narrator; it includes events that are part of a story. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Uses little or no dialogue or descriptions to develop experiences and events or show the responses of characters to situations •Uses simplistic or inaccurate words or phrases to describe experiences and events

	2	1	0
Conventions	The response demonstrates mastery of basic conventions, including punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation, spelling, grammar, and usage. If minor errors occur, they do not detract from the overall intent or effectiveness of the response.	The response demonstrates a partial mastery of basic conventions, including punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation, spelling, grammar, and usage. Various errors may detract from the overall intent or effectiveness of the response.	The response demonstrates little understanding of basic conventions, including punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation, spelling, grammar, and usage. The frequency and severity of errors disrupt the effectiveness of the response.

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- The response is merely a copy of parts of the stimulus.
- The response is written in a language other than English.
- The response is off topic, off task, or offensive.
- The response is illegible or incomprehensible.

GRADE 6 ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY RUBRIC

	4	3	2	1
Purpose & Organization	<p>The response is logically and effectively organized; it conveys the writer’s argument in a complete and unified way. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Effectively introduces the topic •Explicitly states a point of view/argument •Effectively organizes reasons and evidence for the argument in an easily identifiable way •Effectively transitions from one point to another using transitional words, phrases, and/or clauses •Effectively concludes in a logical and unified way 	<p>The response is adequately and generally organized; it conveys the writer’s argument but lacks an overall sense of unity. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Clearly states the topic •Explicitly states a point of view/argument •Generally organizes reasons and evidence for the point of view/argument but may be repetitive or stray from time to time •Uses some transitional words, phrases, or clauses to connect ideas •Clearly communicates a conclusion but may lack a sense of completeness 	<p>The response is partially or inconsistently organized and/or lacks obvious organization; it may have a basic controlling point of view that is ineffectively communicated. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Attempts to introduce the topic and/or restates the prompt but may lack clarity •States a point of view/argument that may be ambiguous or confusing •Lacks an obvious organizational structure, although some grouping of reasons and/or evidence may be present •Uses little or no transitional strategies •Includes a statement that represents an ending, but the statement may not accurately or adequately sum up the writer’s main points 	<p>The response is related to the topic but lacks organizational structure. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •States a topic that may be ambiguous or confusing •Fails to state a point of view/argument •Lacks an organizational structure for reasons and/or evidence •Fails to connect ideas that support the author’s argument •Lacks a statement that concludes and summarizes the writer’s argument
	Evidence & Elaboration	<p>The response demonstrates a thorough understanding of the topic; it effectively and thoroughly develops, explains, and supports the writer’s argument with reasons and evidence. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Effectively supports the writer’s argument with multiple reasons •Effectively elaborates on each reason and supports each reason with evidence •Establishes and maintains a formal style 	<p>The response demonstrates adequate understanding of the topic; it develops, explains, and supports the writer’s argument with reasons and evidence. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Uses some reasons as support for the writer’s argument but may be more general than specific •Elaborates on most reasons using evidence that supports the writer’s argument •Establishes and mostly maintains a formal style 	<p>The response demonstrates inconsistencies in understanding the topic; it develops, explains, and/or supports the writer’s argument with some reasons and/or evidence. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Uses minimal reasons as support for the writer’s argument •Provides insufficient or faulty elaboration and/or supporting evidence •Makes stylistic choices that are not always indicative of a formal style

		2	1	0
Conventions				
		The response demonstrates mastery of basic conventions, including punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation, spelling, grammar, and usage. If minor errors occur, they do not detract from the overall intent or effectiveness of the response.	The response demonstrates a partial mastery of basic conventions, including punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation, spelling, grammar, and usage. Various errors may detract from the overall intent or effectiveness of the response.	The response demonstrates little understanding of basic conventions, including punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation, spelling, grammar, and usage. The frequency and severity of errors disrupt the effectiveness of the response.

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- The response is written in a language other than English.
- The response is off topic, off task, or offensive.
- The response is illegible or incomprehensible.

GRADE 7 & 8 ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY RUBRIC

	4	3	2	1
Purpose & Organization	<p>The response is logically and effectively organized; it conveys the writer’s argument in a complete and unified way. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Effectively introduces the topic •Explicitly states a point of view/argument •Effectively organizes reasons and evidence for the argument in an easily identifiable way •Explicitly addresses alternate or opposing arguments and successfully distinguishes them from writer’s own argument •Effectively transitions from one point to another using transitional words, phrases, and/or clauses •Effectively concludes in a logical and unified way 	<p>The response is adequately and generally organized; it conveys the writer’s argument but lacks an overall sense of unity. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Clearly states the topic •Explicitly states a point of view/argument •Generally organizes reasons and evidence for the point of view/argument but may be repetitive or stray from time to time •Addresses alternate or opposing arguments from the writer’s own argument but may not completely explain why the writer’s own argument is stronger •Uses some transitional words, phrases, or clauses to connect ideas •Clearly communicates a conclusion but may lack a sense of completeness 	<p>The response is partially or inconsistently organized and/or lacks obvious organization; it may have a basic controlling point of view that is ineffectively communicated. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Attempts to introduce the topic and/or restates the prompt but may lack clarity •States a point of view/argument that may be ambiguous or confusing •Lacks an obvious organizational structure, although some grouping of reasons and/or evidence may be present •Acknowledges the existence of alternate or opposing arguments but fails to elaborate or distinguish them from the writer’s own argument •Uses little or no transitional strategies •Includes a statement that represents an ending, but the statement may not accurately or adequately sum up the writer’s main points 	<p>The response is related to the topic but lacks organizational structure. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •States a topic that may be ambiguous or confusing •Fails to state a point of view/argument •Lacks an organizational structure for reasons and/or evidence •Fails to acknowledge alternate or opposing arguments •Fails to connect ideas that support the author’s argument •Lacks a statement that concludes and summarizes the writer’s argument

	4	3	2	1
Evidence & Elaboration	<p>The response demonstrates a thorough understanding of the topic; it effectively and thoroughly develops, explains, and supports the writer's argument with reasons and evidence. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Effectively supports the writer's argument with multiple reasons •Effectively elaborates on each reason and supports each reason with evidence •Establishes and maintains a formal style 	<p>The response demonstrates adequate understanding of the topic; it develops, explains, and supports the writer's argument with reasons and evidence. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Uses some reasons as support for the writer's argument but may be more general than specific •Elaborates on most reasons using evidence that supports the writer's argument •Establishes and mostly maintains a formal style 	<p>The response demonstrates inconsistencies in understanding the topic; it develops, explains, and/or supports the writer's argument with some reasons and/or evidence. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Uses minimal reasons as support for the writer's argument •Provides insufficient or faulty elaboration and/or supporting evidence •Makes stylistic choices that are not always indicative of a formal style 	<p>The response minimally or inadequately addresses the topic; it states an argument with little or no development, support, or elaboration. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Provides a reason for the writer's argument •Fails to elaborate on the reason for the writer's argument and/or fails to use supporting evidence •Makes stylistic choices that reveal a lack of awareness of the audience

	2	1	0
Conventions	<p>The response demonstrates mastery of basic conventions, including punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation, spelling, grammar, and usage. If minor errors occur, they do not detract from the overall intent or effectiveness of the response.</p>	<p>The response demonstrates a partial mastery of basic conventions, including punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation, spelling, grammar, and usage. Various errors may detract from the overall intent or effectiveness of the response.</p>	<p>The response demonstrates little understanding of basic conventions, including punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation, spelling, grammar, and usage. The frequency and severity of errors disrupt the effectiveness of the response.</p>

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- The response is merely a copy of the prompt.
- The response is merely a copy of parts of the stimulus.
- The response is written in a language other than English.
- The response is off topic, off task, or offensive.
- The response is illegible or incomprehensible.

GRADE 6 – 8 INFORMATIVE ESSAY RUBRIC

	4	3	2	1
Purpose & Organization	<p>The response is logically and effectively organized; it conveys the writer’s ideas in a complete and unified way. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Effectively introduces the topic or thesis statement •Effectively organizes ideas, concepts, and information using strategies such as definition, classification, comparison/contrast, and cause/effect •Effectively transitions from one point to another using appropriate transitional words, phrases, and/or clauses •Effectively concludes in a logical and unified way 	<p>The response is adequately and generally organized; it conveys the writer’s ideas but lacks an overall sense of unity. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Clearly states the topic or thesis •Generally organizes related ideas, concepts, and information using organizational strategies •Uses some transitional words, phrases, and/or clauses to connect ideas •Clearly communicates a conclusion but may lack a sense of completeness 	<p>The response is partially or inconsistently organized and/or lacks obvious organization; it may have a basic controlling idea that is ineffectively communicated. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Attempts to introduce the topic or thesis and/or restates the prompt but may lack clarity •Lacks an obvious organizational structure, although some grouping of ideas may be present •Uses little or no transitional strategies •Includes a statement that represents an ending, but the statement may not accurately or adequately sum up main points 	<p>The response is related to the topic but lacks organizational structure. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •States a topic or thesis that may be ambiguous or confusing •Lacks an organizational structure •Fails to connect ideas •Lacks a statement that concludes and summarizes the main points
Evidence & Elaboration	<p>The response demonstrates a thorough understanding of the topic; it effectively and thoroughly develops, explains, and supports ideas. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Effectively uses multiple facts, definitions, concrete details, and/or quotations from the text to support main points •Effectively explains and elaborates on main points •Effectively uses precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic •Effectively establishes and maintains a formal style 	<p>The response demonstrates adequate understanding of the topic; it develops, explains, and supports most ideas. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Uses some facts, definitions, concrete details, and/or quotations from the text as support but may be more general than specific •Explains most of the main points •Uses some precise language and/or domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic •Establishes and mostly maintains a formal style 	<p>The response demonstrates inconsistencies in understanding the topic; it develops, explains, and/or supports some ideas. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Uses some facts, definitions, concrete details, and/or quotations from the text to support some ideas •Attempts to explain main points, but explanation is weak or faulty •Uses general language and general vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic •Makes stylistic choices that are not always indicative of a formal style 	<p>The response minimally or inadequately addresses the topic; it states one or more ideas with little or no development, support, or elaboration. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Uses few, if any, facts, definitions, concrete details, and/or quotations from the text to support ideas •Fails to explain main points •Inconsistently uses language and vocabulary pertinent to the task •Makes stylistic choices that reveal a lack of awareness of the audience

	2	1	0
Conventions	The response demonstrates mastery of basic conventions, including punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation, spelling, grammar, and usage. If minor errors occur, they do not detract from the overall intent or effectiveness of the response.	The response demonstrates a partial mastery of basic conventions, including punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation, spelling, grammar, and usage. Various errors may detract from the overall intent or effectiveness of the response.	The response demonstrates little understanding of basic conventions, including punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation, spelling, grammar, and usage. The frequency and severity of errors disrupt the effectiveness of the response.

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- The response is off topic, off task, or offensive.
- The response is illegible or incomprehensible.

GRADE 6 – 8 NARRATIVE ESSAY RUBRIC

	4	3	2	1
Purpose & Organization	<p>The response is logically and effectively organized; it conveys a narrative in a complete and unified way. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Effectively establishes characters and/or a narrator as directed by the prompt •Effectively organizes a sequence of events that unfolds naturally •Effectively uses a variety of transitional words, phrases, and clauses to convey sequence and signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another •Effectively concludes the narrative in a logical way that follows from the narrated experiences and events 	<p>The response is adequately and generally organized; it conveys a narrative but lacks an overall sense of unity. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Introduces characters and/or a narrator as directed by the prompt •Includes events that proceed in an order that is typical for a narrative •Uses some transitional words, phrases, and/or clauses to convey sequence and signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another •Provides an ending that conforms with the rest of the narrative 	<p>The response is partially or inconsistently organized and/or lacks obvious organization; it may not convey a complete narrative. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Includes characters and/or a narrator that may not completely conform with the directions in the prompt •Includes a basic set of events but may structure them in an illogical way •Uses few or no transitions to convey sequence and signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another •Provides an ending that may not logically or naturally conclude the narrative 	<p>The response is related to the topic but lacks organizational structure. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Fails to establish characters and/or a narrator that conforms with the directions in the prompt •Lacks a recognizable narrative structure •Uses no transitions between or among parts of the narrative •Lacks an ending to the narrative
Support & Elaboration	<p>The response thoroughly develops characters and/or a narrator; it effectively and thoroughly elaborates on the sequence of events. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Effectively uses narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, and description, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters •Effectively uses precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to convey experiences and events 	<p>The response demonstrates adequate development of characters and/or a narrator; it describes a sequence of events. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Uses narrative techniques to develop some experiences and events or show the responses of some characters to situations •Uses more general words and phrases, descriptive details, and/or sensory language to convey experiences and events 	<p>The response includes superficial development of characters and/or a narrator; it includes events that are part of a story. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Uses inadequate narrative techniques to develop experiences and events or show the responses of characters to situations •Uses simplistic or superficial words or phrases to describe experiences and events 	<p>The response includes characters and/or a narrator; it attempts to relate a story. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Uses no recognizable narrative technique; mostly "explains" or "tells" without framing a story •Fails to include descriptive words and/or phrases

	2	1	0
Conventions	The response demonstrates mastery of basic conventions, including punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation, spelling, grammar, and usage. If minor errors occur, they do not detract from the overall intent or effectiveness of the response.	The response demonstrates a partial mastery of basic conventions, including punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation, spelling, grammar, and usage. Various errors may detract from the overall intent or effectiveness of the response.	The response demonstrates little understanding of basic conventions, including punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation, spelling, grammar, and usage. The frequency and severity of errors disrupt the effectiveness of the response.

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- The response is off topic, off task, or offensive.
- The response is illegible or incomprehensible.

GRADE 9 – 10 ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY RUBRIC

	4	3	2	1
Purpose & Organization	<p>The response is logically and effectively organized; it conveys the writer’s argument in a complete and unified way. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Effectively introduces the topic •Explicitly states precise claim(s) that clearly convey a point of view •Explicitly addresses alternate or opposing arguments and successfully distinguishes them from writer’s own argument •Effectively organizes information in a way that establishes clear relationships among claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence •Effectively uses words, phrases, and clauses to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships between claim(s) and reasons, between reasons and evidence, and between claim(s) and counterclaims •Effectively concludes in a logical and unified way 	<p>The response is adequately and generally organized; it conveys the writer’s argument but lacks an overall sense of unity. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Clearly states the topic •Explicitly states a point of view/argument •Addresses alternate or opposing arguments from the writer’s own argument but may not completely explain why the writer’s own argument is stronger •Generally organizes information that separates claims from counterclaims and includes reasons and evidence for both •Uses some transitional words, phrases, or clauses to connect ideas •Clearly communicates a conclusion but may lack a sense of completeness 	<p>The response is partially or inconsistently organized and/or lacks obvious organization; it may have a basic controlling point of view that is ineffectively communicated. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Attempts to introduce the topic and/or restates the prompt but may lack clarity •States a point of view/argument that may be ambiguous or confusing •Acknowledges the existence of alternate or opposing arguments but fails to elaborate or distinguish them from the writer’s own argument •Lacks an obvious organizational structure, although some grouping of claims, counterclaims, reasons and/or evidence may be present •Uses little or no transitional strategies •Includes a section or statement that represents an ending, but the section or statement may not accurately or adequately sum up the writer’s main points 	<p>The response is related to the topic but lacks organizational structure. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •States a topic that may be ambiguous or confusing •Fails to state a point of view/argument •Fails to acknowledge alternate or opposing arguments •Lacks an organizational structure for claims, counterclaims, reasons and/or evidence •Fails to connect ideas that support the author’s argument •Lacks a statement that concludes and summarizes the writer’s argument

	4	3	2	1
Evidence & Elaboration	<p>The response demonstrates a thorough understanding of the topic; it effectively and thoroughly develops, explains, and supports the writer's argument with reasons and evidence. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Effectively develops claim(s) and counterclaims fairly, supplying evidence for each while pointing out the strengths and limitations of both in a manner that anticipates the audience's knowledge level and concerns •Establishes and maintains a formal style and objective tone 	<p>The response demonstrates adequate understanding of the topic; it develops, explains, and supports the writer's argument with reasons and evidence. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Generally develops claim(s) and counterclaims using some supporting evidence, but may not emphasize the strengths and limitations of both •Establishes and mostly maintains a formal style and objective tone 	<p>The response demonstrates inconsistencies in understanding the topic; it develops, explains, and/or supports the writer's argument with some reasons and/or evidence. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Provides insufficient or inconsistent support for claim(s) and counterclaims •Makes stylistic choices that are not always indicative of a formal style and objective tone 	<p>The response minimally or inadequately addresses the topic; it states an argument with little or no development, support, or elaboration. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Provides a reason for the writer's argument •Fails to elaborate on the reason for the writer's argument and/or fails to use supporting evidence •Makes stylistic choices that reveal a lack of awareness of the audience
	2	1	0	
Conventions	<p>The response demonstrates mastery of basic conventions, including punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation, spelling, grammar, and usage. If minor errors occur, they do not detract from the overall intent or effectiveness of the response.</p>	<p>The response demonstrates a partial mastery of basic conventions, including punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation, spelling, grammar, and usage. Various errors may detract from the overall intent or effectiveness of the response.</p>	<p>The response demonstrates little understanding of basic conventions, including punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation, spelling, grammar, and usage. The frequency and severity of errors disrupt the effectiveness of the response.</p>	

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GRADE 9 – 10 INFORMATIVE ESSAY RUBRIC

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- The response is off topic, off task, or offensive.
- The response is illegible or incomprehensible.

	4	3	2	1
Purpose & Organization	<p>The response is logically and effectively organized; it conveys the writer’s ideas in a complete and unified way. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Effectively introduces the topic •Effectively organizes complex ideas, concepts, and information to make important connections and distinctions •Effectively employs appropriate and varied transitions to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships among complex ideas and concepts •Effectively concludes in a logical and unified way that supports the information or explanation presented (e.g., articulating implications or the significance of the topic) 	<p>The response is adequately and generally organized; it conveys the writer’s ideas but lacks an overall sense of unity. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Clearly states the topic •Generally organizes, connects, and distinguishes related ideas, concepts, and information •Uses some transitional words, phrases, and/or clauses to link the major sections of the text and clarify relationships among ideas and concepts •Clearly communicates a conclusion but may lack a sense of completeness 	<p>The response is partially or inconsistently organized and/or lacks obvious organization; it may have a basic controlling idea that is ineffectively communicated. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Attempts to introduce the topic and/or restates the prompt but may lack clarity •Lacks an obvious organizational structure, although some grouping of ideas may be present •Uses little or no transitional strategies •Includes a statement that represents an ending, but the statement may not accurately or adequately sum up main points 	<p>The response is related to the topic but lacks organizational structure. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •States a topic that may be ambiguous or confusing •Lacks an organizational structure •Fails to connect ideas •Lacks a statement that concludes and summarizes the main points

	4	3	2	1
Evidence & Elaboration	<p>The response demonstrates a thorough understanding of the topic; it effectively and thoroughly develops, explains, and supports ideas. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Effectively uses well-chosen, relevant, and sufficient facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, and/or other information and examples from the text appropriate to the audience's knowledge of the topic •Effectively incorporates formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., figures, tables), and/or multimedia when called for by the prompt •Effectively explains and elaborates on main points •Effectively uses precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to manage the complexity of the topic •Effectively establishes and maintains a formal style and objective tone 	<p>The response demonstrates adequate understanding of the topic; it develops, explains, and supports most ideas. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Uses some facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, and/or other information from the text as support but may be more general than specific •Refers to or uses information from graphics and/or multimedia when called for by the prompt •Explains most of the main points •Uses some precise language and/or domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic •Establishes and mostly maintains a formal style and objective tone 	<p>The response demonstrates inconsistencies in understanding the topic; it develops, explains, and/or supports some ideas. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Uses some facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, and/or other information from the text to support some ideas •Makes weak or no connections to information from graphics and/or multimedia when called for by the prompt •Attempts to explain main points, but explanation is weak or faulty •Uses general language and general vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic •Makes stylistic choices that are not always indicative of a formal style and objective tone 	<p>The response minimally or inadequately addresses the topic; it states one or more ideas with little or no development, support, or elaboration. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Uses few, if any, facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, and/or other information from the text to support ideas •Fails to explain main points •Inconsistently uses language and vocabulary pertinent to the task •Makes stylistic choices that reveal a lack of awareness of the audience
Conventions		<p>The response demonstrates mastery of basic conventions, including punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation, spelling, grammar, and usage. If minor errors occur, they do not detract from the overall intent or effectiveness of the response.</p>	<p>The response demonstrates a partial mastery of basic conventions, including punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation, spelling, grammar, and usage. Various errors may detract from the overall intent or effectiveness of the response.</p>	<p>The response demonstrates little understanding of basic conventions, including punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation, spelling, grammar, and usage. The frequency and severity of errors disrupt the effectiveness of the response.</p>

GRADE 9 – 10 NARRATIVE ESSAY RUBRIC

	4	3	2	1
Purpose & Organization	<p>The response is logically and effectively organized; it conveys a narrative in a complete and unified way. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Effectively orients the reader by setting out a problem, situation, or observation •Effectively establishes one or multiple points of view as directed by the prompt •Effectively establishes characters and/or a narrator as directed by the prompt •Effectively organizes a sequence of events that unfolds naturally •Effectively uses a variety of techniques to sequence events so that they build on one another to create a coherent whole •Effectively concludes the narrative in a logical way that follows from the narrated experiences and events 	<p>The response is adequately and generally organized; it conveys a narrative but lacks an overall sense of unity. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Clearly conveys a problem, situation, or observation •Establishes one or multiple points of view as directed by the prompt •Introduces characters and/or a narrator as directed by the prompt •Includes events that proceed in an order that is typical for a narrative •Uses some techniques to sequence events •Provides an ending that conforms with the rest of the narrative 	<p>The response is partially or inconsistently organized and/or lacks obvious organization; it may not convey a complete narrative. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Attempts to convey a problem, situation, or observation •Conveys a point of view that may be inconsistent throughout the narrative •Includes characters and/or a narrator that may not completely conform with the directions in the prompt •Includes a basic set of events but may structure them in an illogical way •Uses few or no techniques to sequence events •Provides an ending that may not logically or naturally conclude the narrative 	<p>The response is related to the topic but lacks organizational structure. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Fails to convey a clear problem, situation, or observation that can serve as the basis for a plot •Fails to establish or maintain a point of view as directed by the prompt •Fails to establish characters and/or a narrator that conforms with the directions in the prompt •Lacks a recognizable narrative structure •Uses no techniques to transition between or among parts of the narrative •Lacks an ending to the narrative

	4	3	2	1
Support & Elaboration	<p>The response thoroughly develops characters and/or a narrator; it effectively and thoroughly elaborates on the sequence of events. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effectively uses narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, reflection, and multiple plot lines, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters Effectively uses precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to convey a vivid picture of experiences, events, setting, and/or characters 	<p>The response demonstrates adequate development of characters and/or a narrator; it describes a sequence of events. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses narrative techniques to develop some experiences and events or show the responses of some characters to situations Uses more general words and phrases, descriptive details, and/or sensory language to convey experiences, events, setting, and/or characters 	<p>The response includes superficial development of characters and/or a narrator; it includes events that are part of a story. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses inadequate narrative techniques to develop experiences and events or show the responses of characters to situations Uses simplistic or superficial words or phrases to describe experiences, events, setting, and/or characters 	<p>The response includes characters and/or a narrator; it attempts to relate a story. The response is characterized by most or all of the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses no recognizable narrative technique; mostly "explains" or "tells" without framing a story Fails to include descriptive words and/or phrases

	2	1	0
Conventions	<p>The response demonstrates mastery of basic conventions, including punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation, spelling, grammar, and usage. If minor errors occur, they do not detract from the overall intent or effectiveness of the response.</p>	<p>The response demonstrates a partial mastery of basic conventions, including punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation, spelling, grammar, and usage. Various errors may detract from the overall intent or effectiveness of the response.</p>	<p>The response demonstrates little understanding of basic conventions, including punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation, spelling, grammar, and usage. The frequency and severity of errors disrupt the effectiveness of the response.</p>

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