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| **CCSS** | **4 – Excelling** | **3 – Meeting** | **2 – Approaching** | **1 – Minimal Progress** | **NS** |
| W.2.a | * Effectively introduces a topic or thesis statement.
* Skillfully organizes complex ideas, concepts, and information to create a unified whole.
* (Strategically includes formatting)\*
 | * Introduces a topic or thesis statement.
* Organizes complex ideas, concepts, and information to create a unified whole.
* (Includes formatting, e.g. headings, graphics, multimedia)\*
 | * Attempts to introduce a topic or thesis statement.
* Organization of ideas, concepts, and information may be somewhat confusing.
* (Minimally includes formatting)\*
 | * Does not introduce a topic or provide a thesis statement.
* Organization of ideas, concepts, and information may be illogical.
* (Formatting is not useful)\*
 |  Incoherent, Off-task, Illegible |
| W.2.b | * Thoroughly develops the topic with relevant, well-chosen, and sufficient facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.
 | * Develops the topic with relevant, well-chosen, and sufficient facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.
 | * Minimally develops the topic with relevant, well-chosen, and sufficient facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.
 | * Does not sufficiently develop the topic with relevant, well-chosen, and sufficient facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.
 |
| W.2.c | * Sophisticated use of appropriate and varied transitions and syntax to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among complex ideas and concepts.
 | * Uses appropriate and varied transitions and syntax to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among complex ideas and concepts.
 | * Limited and/or ineffective use of transitions and syntax to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among complex ideas and concepts.
 | * Lacks transitions and syntax to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among complex ideas and concepts.
 |
| W.2.d | * Sophisticated use of precise language, domain-specific vocabulary, and techniques (such as simile, metaphor, and analogy) to manage the complexity of the text.
 | * Use of precise language, domain-specific vocabulary, and techniques (such as simile, metaphor, and analogy) to manage the complexity of the text.
 | * Minimal use of precise language, domain-specific vocabulary, and techniques (such as simile, metaphor, and analogy) to manage the complexity of the text.
 | * Lacks or inaccurately uses precise language, domain-specific vocabulary, and techniques to manage the complexity of the text.
 |
| W.2.e | * Effectively establishes and consistently maintains a formal style and objective tone.
 | * Establishes and maintains a formal style and objective tone.
 | * Attempts to establish and maintain a formal style and objective tone.
 | * Does not establish or maintain a formal style and objective tone.
 |
| W.2.f | * Insightfully provides a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented.
 | * Provides a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented.
 | * Provides a weak concluding statement or section that may or may not support the information or explanation presented.
 | * Provides no concluding statement or section.
 |
|  | **\*(formatting is not necessarily applicable in on-demand pieces)****STUDENT’s HOLISTIC SCORE for the INFORMATIVE/EXPLANATORY WRITING, circle one: 4 3 2 1 NS** |
| L.1,2 | * Demonstrates use of effective and purposeful sentence structures.
* Skillfully uses punctuation, capitalization, grammar usage, and spelling to enhance meaning.
 | * Purposeful sentence structures.
* Appropriate use of punctuation, capitalization, grammar usage, and spelling. Minor errors do not interfere with meaning.
 | * Some weakness in sentence structures.
* Inconsistent use of punctuation, capitalization, grammar usage, and spelling. Errors somewhat interfere with meaning.
 | * Weak and/or confusing sentence structures.
* Punctuation, capitalization, grammar usage, and spelling, errors interfere with meaning.
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|  | **STUDENT’S HOLISTIC SCORE for LANGUAGE USE and CONVENTIONS, circle one: 4 3 2 1 NS** |  |