**8th Grade Writing Rubric – Informative/Explanatory Writing**

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| **CC****SS** | **4 – Excelling** | **3 – Meeting** | **2 – Approaching** | **1 – Minimal Progress** | **NS** |
| W.2.a | * Effectively introduces a topic or thesis statement.
* Clearly previews what is to follow.
* Skillfully organizes ideas, concepts, and information into broader categories.
* (Strategically includes formatting, graphics, and multimedia when useful to aide comprehension.)\*
 | * Introduces a topic or thesis statement.
* Previews what is to follow.
* Organizes ideas, concepts, and information into broader categories.
* (Includes formatting, graphics, and multimedia when useful to aide comprehension.)\*
 | * Attempts to introduce a topic or thesis statement.
* Attempts to preview what is to follow.
* Organization of ideas, concepts, and information may be somewhat confusing.
* (Minimally includes formatting, graphics, and multimedia when useful to aide comprehension.)\*
 | * Does not introduce a topic or provide a thesis statement.
* Lacks a preview of what is to follow.
* Organization of ideas, concepts, and information may be illogical.
* (Does not include formatting, graphics, and multimedia to aide comprehension.)\*
 |  Incoherent, Off-task, Illegible |
| W.2.b | * Thoroughly develops the topic with relevant, well-chosen facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.
 | * Develops the topic with relevant, well-chosen facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.
 | * Minimally develops the topic with relevant, well-chosen facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.
 | * Does not develop the topic with relevant, well-chosen facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.
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| W.2.c | * Sophisticated use of appropriate and varied transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.
 | * Uses appropriate and varied transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.
 | * Limited and/or ineffective use of transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.
 | * Lacks transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.
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| W.2.d | * Sophisticated use of precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.
 | * Uses precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.
 | * Minimal use of precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.
 | * Lacks or inaccurately uses precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.
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| W.2.e | * Effectively establishes and consistently maintains a formal style.
 | * Establishes and maintains a formal style.
 | * Attempts to establish and maintain a formal style.
 | * Does not establish or maintain a formal style.
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| 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.
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|  | **\*(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** |  |