

6-Point Rubric for Expository Writing

Use this rubric to guide and assess your expository writing. Refer to it to improve your writing using the six traits.

Ideas

- 6 The topic, thesis, and details make the essay unforgettable.
- 5 The essay is informative with a clear thesis and specific details.
- 4 The essay is informative with a clear thesis. More specific details are needed.
- 3 The thesis of the essay should be clearer, and more specific details are needed.
- 2 The topic should be narrowed or expanded. Many more specific details are needed.
- 1 The writer should select a new topic.

Organization

- 6 The organization and transitions make the essay crystal clear and compelling.
- 5 The beginning interests the reader. The middle supports the focus. The ending works well. Transitions are used.
- 4 The essay is divided into a beginning, a middle, and an ending. Some transitions are used.
- 3 The beginning or ending is weak. The middle needs a paragraph for each main point. More transitions are needed.
- 2 The beginning, middle, and ending all run together. Paragraph breaks and transitions are needed.
- 1 The essay should be reorganized.

Voice

- 6 The writer's voice has the confident, knowledgeable sound of a professional writer.
- 5 The writer's voice sounds knowledgeable and confident. It fits the audience.
- 4 The writer's voice sounds knowledgeable most of the time and fits the audience.
- 3 The writer sometimes sounds unsure, and the voice needs to better fit the audience.
- 2 The writer sounds unsure. The voice needs to fit the audience.
- 1 The writer needs to learn about voice.

Word Choice

- 6 The word choice is precise, with just the right nouns, verbs, and modifiers.
- 5 Specific nouns and action verbs make the essay clear and informative.
- 4 Some nouns and verbs could be more specific.
- 3 Too many general words are used. Specific nouns and verbs are needed.
- 2 General or missing words make this essay difficult to understand.
- 1 The writer needs help finding specific words.

Sentence Fluency

- 6 The sentences have flair and flavor, and the reader will enjoy them
- 5 The sentences read smoothly.
- 4 Most of the sentences read smoothly, but some are short and choppy.
- 3 Many short, choppy sentences need to be rewritten to make the essay read smoothly.
- 2 Many sentences are choppy or incomplete and need to be rewritten.
- 1 Most sentences need to be rewritten.

Conventions

- 6 The essay is error free.
- 5 The essay has a few minor errors in punctuation, spelling, or grammar.
- 4 The essay has some errors in punctuation, spelling, or grammar.
- 3 Several errors confuse the reader.
- 2 Many errors make the essay difficult to read.
- 1 Help is needed to make corrections.