

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

## Explanatory Writing Rubric

CRITERIA	ATTEMPTING 1	PROGRESSING 2	ACCOMPLISHING 3	EXCEED 4
<b>FOCUS</b>	Writing is not sufficiently focused on the essential question.	Writing is somewhat focused on the essential question.	Writing is focused on the essential question.	Writing is consistently and strongly focused on the essential question.
<b>CONTROLLING IDEA</b>	Writing does not identify an idea about the central text.	Writing identifies but does not explain an idea about the central text.	Writing clearly explains an idea about the central text.	Writing clearly explains and elaborates on an idea about the central text.
<b>TEXTUAL EVIDENCE</b>	Writing does not refer to the text or refers to it in ways that are not accurate or relevant.	Writing refers to the text in ways that are partially accurate or relevant to the explanation.	Writing refers to the text in ways that are accurate and relevant to the explanation.	Writing refers to the text in ways that are accurate and relevant to the explanation, and also contribute to a deeper understanding of the central question.
<b>DEVELOPMENT</b>	Writing does not support its explanation.	Writing supports its explanation with weak or unclear ideas.	Writing supports its explanation with clear, persuasive and reasonable ideas.	Writing supports its explanation with clear, persuasive, and original or creative ideas.
<b>ORGANIZATION</b>	Writing is not organized in a way that meets the task demands.	Writing is organized but only partially meets the task demands	Writing is organized to meet the task demands.	Writing is purposefully and thoughtfully organized to meet the task demands.
<b>WORD CHOICE</b>	Writing uses only limited vocabulary and incorporates no language from the text.	Writing uses moderately varied vocabulary and attempts to incorporate language from the text.	Writing accurately and clearly incorporates varied vocabulary including language from the text.	Writing accurately, clearly and creatively incorporates varied vocabulary including language from the text.
<b>CONVENTIONS</b>	Writing has consistent errors in usage and mechanics.	Writing has some errors in usage and mechanics.	Writing has few errors in usage or mechanics.	Writing has no errors in usage or mechanics.

## EXPLANATORY WRITER'S CHECKLIST

CRITERIA	STUDENT CHECKLIST
FOCUS	Did I focus my writing on exploring the essential question?
CONTROLLING IDEA	Did I clearly explain a main idea?
TEXTUAL EVIDENCE	Did I support my explanation with evidence from the text?
DEVELOPMENT	Did I develop my explanation with convincing and relevant discussion of my ideas?
ORGANIZATION	Did I organize and structure my writing in a way that communicates my point?
WORD CHOICE	Did I use a variety of vocabulary, including language I learned from the text?
CONVENTIONS	Did I edit my writing for spelling, grammar, punctuation and capitalization?