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| **4-point Informative-Explanatory Writing Rubric** |
| **Score** | **Statement of Purpose/Focus** | **Organization** | **Elaboration of Evidence** | **Language and Vocabulary** | **Conventions**  |
| 4 |  response is fully sustained and consistently and purposefully focused: • main idea of a topic is focused, clearly stated, and strongly maintained • main idea of a topic is introduced and communicated clearly | response has a clear and effective organizational structure: • variety of transitional strategies • logical progression of ideas from beginning to end • effective introduction and conclusion • strong connections among ideas |  Response provides thorough and convincing support/evidence for the main idea that includes the effective use of sources, facts, and details. The response achieves substantial depth that is specific and relevant: • use of evidence from sources is smoothly integrated, comprehensive, and concrete • effective use of explanations |  response clearly and effectively expresses ideas, using precise language: • use of academic and domain-specific vocabulary is clearly appropriate for the purpose | response demonstrates a strong command of conventions: • few, if any, errors are present in usage and sentence formation • effective and consistent use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling |
| 3 | response is adequately sustained and generally focused: * + focus is clear and for the most part maintained, though some loosely related material may be present
 |  response has evident organizational structure and a sense of completeness, though there may be minor flaws and some ideas may be loosely connected: • adequate use of transitional strategies with some variety • adequate progression of ideas from beginning to end • adequate introduction and conclusion • adequate, if slightly inconsistent, connection among ideas |  response provides adequate support/evidence for the main idea that includes the use of sources, facts, and details. • some evidence from sources is integrated, though citations may be general or imprecise • adequate use of explanations |  response adequately expresses ideas, employing a mix of precise with more general language • use of domain-specific vocabulary is generally appropriate for the purpose |  response demonstrates an adequate command of conventions: • some errors in usage may be present, but no systematic pattern of errors is displayed • adequate use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling |
| 2 | response is somewhat sustained and may have a minor drift in focus: • may be clearly focused on the main idea but is insufficiently sustained • main idea may be unclear and somewhat unfocused | response has inconsistent organizational structure, and flaws are evident: • inconsistent use of transitional strategies with little variety • uneven progression of ideas from beginning to end • conclusion and introduction, if present, are weak • weak connection among ideas |  response provides uneven support/evidence for the main idea that includes partial or uneven use of sources, facts, and details: • evidence from sources is weakly integrated, and citations, if present, are uneven • weak or uneven use of explanations |  response expresses ideas unevenly, using simplistic language: • use of domain-specific vocabulary that may at times be inappropriate for the purpose | response demonstrates a partial command of conventions: • frequent errors in usage may obscure meaning • inconsistent use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling |
| 1 | response may be related to the topic but may provide little or no focus: • may be very brief • may have a major drift • focus may be confusing  |  response has little or no organizational structure: • few or no transitional strategies • frequent extraneous ideas may intrude | The response provides minimal support/evidence for the main idea that includes little or no use of sources, facts, and details: • use of evidence from the source material is minimal, absent, in error, or irrelevant  | response expression of ideas is vague, lacks clarity, or is confusing: • uses limited language or domain- specific vocabulary • may have little sense of purpose |  response demonstrates a lack of command of conventions: • errors are frequent and severe and meaning is often obscure |
| Format | 1 point for each of the following formatting requirements: Font size and style Header with page numbers Proper heading Correct parenthetical citations within text Works Cited page |