Informative-Explanatory Essay Writing Rubric (Grades 3–5) Purpose, Focus, and Organization

Score	4	3	2	1
		The response is adequately sustained and generally focused within the purpose, audience, and task; and it has a controlling idea and evident organizational structure with a sense of completeness. The response includes most of the following:	The response is somewhat sustained within the purpose, audience, and task but may include loosely related or extraneous material; and it may have a controlling idea with an inconsistent organizational structure. The response may include the following:	
	x Strongly maintained controlling idea with little or no loosely related material	x Maintained controlling idea, though some loosely related material may be present	x Partially focused controlling idea, but insufficiently sustained or unclear	x Confusing or ambiguous ideas
	x Skillful use of a variety of transitional strategies to clarify the relationships between and among ideas	x Adequate use of transitional strategies with some variety to clarify the relationships between and among ideas	x the following:	x Frequent extraneous ideas impeding understanding x Few or no transitional strategies
	x Logical progression of ideas from beginning to end, including a satisfying introduction and conclusion	x Adequate progression of ideas from beginning to end, including a sufficient introduction and conclusion		x Too brief to demonstrate knowledge of focus or organization