

### Grade 8: Informative/Explanatory Rubric

**W.8.4.** Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.  
**L.8.2.** Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

Exceeds Grade Level (4)	Proficient (3)	Partially Proficient (2)	Novice (1)
<b>W.8.02.a -- Introduction</b> Advanced skills noted:	<b>Introduction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> introduces topic clearly to draw readers to the text</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> information is grouped in an organized manner</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> topic sentence or <b>thesis</b> is present.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Introduction</b> paragraph to topic is minimal</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> information may be organized in a manner that can cause difficulty in reading or understanding</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> weak or unclear thesis.</li> </ul>	Introduction lacks full development.
<b>W.8.02.b -- Development</b> Advanced skills noted:	<b>Body</b> paragraphs are supported with <b>relevant</b> facts, definitions, <b>concrete</b> details, quotations, examples, and other related information.	Body paragraphs are developed with a <b>few</b> facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, examples or other information, but may not necessarily be related to topic.	Body paragraphs lack full development.
<b>W.8.02.c -- Organization and sentence variety</b> Advanced skills noted:	<b>Transition words/phrases</b> and <b>sentence variety</b> is used to connect ideas and create clear writing.	<b>Transitions</b> are unclear and lack <b>sentence variety</b> .	<b>Transitions</b> are missing and <b>sentences</b> are simple.
<b>W.8.02.d -- Word Choice</b> Advanced skills noted:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Use <b>precise language</b> and vocabulary to inform or explain the topic.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Defines domain specific words as needed for clear understanding.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Uses some content vocabulary to inform or explain the topic.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Uses domain specific words but understanding of these words is not convincing.</li> </ul>	Uses simple or basic content vocabulary to inform or explain the topic.
<b>W.08.02.e -- Style &amp; Voice</b>	Establish and maintain a formal style: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Uses <b>third person pronouns</b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> states main points <b>objectively</b> (limited emotions)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> avoids <b>contractions</b> and <b>informal word choice</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Attempts to use third person pronouns but may not be consistent</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> states main points objectively (limited emotions)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> contractions and informal word choice occasionally find their way into paper</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Informal style noted throughout paper.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Emotions and opinions get in the way of objectivity.</li> </ul>
<b>W.8.02.f -- Conclusion</b> Advanced skills noted:	<b>Conclusion</b> paragraph <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> has a <b>transition</b> word or phrase</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> restates thesis and main points</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> ends with a strong closing statement that supports information presented.</li> </ul>	<b>Conclusion</b> paragraph may lack one or more of the following <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> a transition word or phrase</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> restated thesis, main points</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> closing statement that supports information present.</li> </ul>	<b>Conclusion</b> paragraph lacks full development.
<b>Language</b> shows no errors in conventions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> capitalization</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> punctuation</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> spelling</li> </ul>	<b>Language</b> has a few errors in convention but does not distract reader <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> capitalization</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> punctuation</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> spelling</li> </ul>	<b>Language</b> has many errors in conventions – detracts from meaning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> capitalization</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> punctuation</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> spelling</li> </ul>	<b>Language</b> has major errors in conventions which make paper difficult to read <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> capitalization</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> punctuation</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> spelling</li> </ul>

WRITING SCORE \_\_\_\_\_

LANGUAGE SCORE \_\_\_\_\_