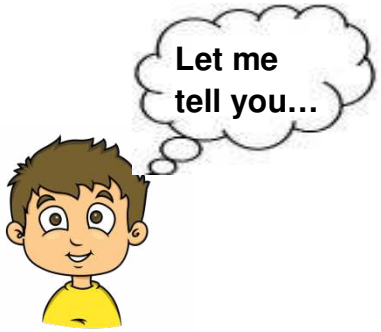
Informational Writing Rubric Grades 1-2



	1	2	3	4
Topic Introduction/ Focus of Writing	• Topic NOT introduced • Does not demonstrate understanding of topic • No clear topic is evident	• Topic is inferred, but not directly stated; unclear, inconsistent, or too general • Demonstrates some understanding about topic • Inconsistent in sticking to topic	• With support, writes a topic sentence to introduce topic • Demonstrates acceptable understanding of topic • Sticks to topic with minimal deviation	• Writes a clear topic sentence introduction and conclusion • Demonstrates strong understanding of topic • Sticks to topic with no deviations
Organization	• No paragraph structure is evident • Information is randomly scattered and non-sequential	• No paragraph structure, but informational sentences make sense • Most information presented in sequential order	• Organizes ideas and information into incomplete paragraph • Information is presented in sequential order	• Ideas and information organized in clear paragraph structure • Uses transitional/ linking words to connect ideas or paragraphs in sequential order
Details/ Use of Facts & Definitions	• Uses no facts or definitions • Provides only narrative story elements or opinions • Demonstrates no knowledge about the topic	• Provides some facts or definitions but woven inconsistently with narrative story or opinions • Some facts provided may or may not be related to topic • Provides only general information about topic	• Supports topic with limited facts or definitions • Provides some details/facts mixed with general information on topic • Demonstrates simple understanding about topic • Draws picture to illustrate	• Supports topic with detailed facts and definitions • Sentences consistently contain information about specific topic • Demonstrates mastery knowledge about topic • Draws and labels detailed pictures to support the writing
Vocabulary & Language Complexity	• Uses only pictures or adds just a few simple words to pictures. • Vocabulary and language chosen do not make the text "sound like" informational writing • Writing makes no sense	• Uses simple, general vocabulary and no technical terms related to the topic • Uses mostly incomplete sentences or phrases • Most sentences start in the same way	• Uses conversational vocabulary with few topic-related technical terms • Uses primarily simple sentences mixed with a few phrases/fragments • Some sentences start in the same way	• Uses specific words and age-appropriate technical language • Uses more complex & expanded sentences than simple sentences • Beginning of sentences in text vary and sound natural to fit the genre
Conventions/ Grammar & Mechanics	• Does not use word spacing, punctuation, or capitalization • Writing may appear as string of letters • Letters not correctly formed or legible	• Demonstrates correct word spacing most of the time • Inventive spelling used consistently…many words not recognizable to reader • Uses capitalization and punctuation inconsistently or incorrectly • Writing is mostly legible	• Uses correct word spacing with rare exceptions • About half of the sight words spelled correctly, inventive spelling/close approximations for other words • Capitalization & punctuation consistent at beginning and end of sentences with some fragments present. • Writing legible & correct	• Uses correct word spacing throughout text • High frequency words spelled correctly and other words are close to standard spelling • Correct capitalization and punctuation used consistently • Letter formation is neat and correct