

Below is the Rubric template that will be used for all expository writing in language arts/English and social studies classes, grades 6 through 8.

CMS Expository Essay Rubric

CATEGORY	1	2	3	4	POINTS
FORMAT					
Heading	3 missing parts or misspellings	2 missing parts or misspellings	2 missing parts or misspelling	All parts present and properly placed	
Directions	3 or more parts of the directions not followed	2 parts of the directions not followed	1 part of the directions not followed	Followed all directions	
STYLE					
Vocabulary/ Language	Vocabulary errors misuse of language limit the meaning	Simple vocabulary and language use	Effective vocabulary and language use	<u>Rich</u> , effective vocabulary and language use	
Sentence Variety	Little sentence variety - relies on a few simple patterns	Some sentence variety but relies too heavily on a few simple patterns	Variety and quality of sentences are evident in the essay	Variety and quality of sentence consistently enhances the essay	
Voice and Tone	Voice and tone are inappropriate for the purpose of the essay	Voice and tone partially match the purpose of the essay	Voice and tone are appropriate for the purpose of the essay	Voice and tone are engaging and appropriate for the purpose of the essay	
SKILLS					
- Spelling - Punctuation - Capitalization - Fragments - Run-ons - Subject/Verb Agreement - Pronoun/Antecedent Agreement	Many errors which interfere with meaning and the overall quality of the essay	Several errors / patterns of error which detract from the overall quality of the essay	Some errors, but the meaning is clear	Minor errors which do not detract from the overall quality of the essay	
CONTENT					
Focus	Lacks analysis, development and insight; lacks minimal background information.	Minimal analysis, development and insight; minimal amount of background information	Strong analysis, development and insight; sufficient amount of background information	Exceptional analysis, development and insight; provides all essential background information	
Details	Reasons, explanation and evidence are not provided and/or do not support thesis	Provides inadequate reasons, explanation and evidence to support thesis	Provides sufficient reasons, explanation and evidence to support thesis	Provides comprehensive and compelling reasons, explanation and evidence to support thesis	
Thesis Statement	Misplaced or missing; unclear and illogical	May be out of place; lacks clarity and/or depth	Last sentence of introduction; clear and logical	Last sentence of introduction; clear, specific and insightful	

ORGANIZATION					
Transitions	Lack of consistency between sentences or paragraphs; significantly limits meaning	Occur inconsistently and/or insufficiently	Occur between paragraphs and sentences, but do not enhance meaning	Occur between paragraphs and sentences; are logical and enhance meaning	
Introduction	Lacks interest and direction	Creates little interest in topic and limited direction into the body of the essay	Creates some interest and limited accessibility to topic; initiates some movement into the body of the essay	Creates interest and accessibility to topic; provides coherent direction into body of essay	
Body Paragraphs	Lack unified thinking; limit flow; lack effective details	Reflect limited thinking; somewhat promote flow; present some, but not enough, details	Reflect unified thinking; promote flow; present details somewhat effectively	Reflect highly unified thinking; strongly promote flow; effectively present details	
Conclusion	Either missing or lacks even a basic summary	Ends the essay with summary and repetition only	Effectively ends essay - includes some observation beyond mere summary	Thoughtfully and effectively end essay - goes beyond mere summary	
Compositional Risk - dialogue - rhetorical questions - challenging	No risks taken	Few risks taken and/or poorly executed	Some risks taken and/or well executed	Several risks taken and masterfully executed	
Vocabulary - humor - irony					