

Student Language Writing Scoring Guide Grades 3-5: Key Elements

Informative/Explanatory Writing, Opinion Writing, and Research Projects

Ideas and Content

- Purpose, main ideas
- Stated opinion and reasons
- Supporting details

5 – Interesting and thorough / accurate / strong and specific

4 – Adequate / clear / easy to understand

3 – Some / too general / inaccurate or not specific

Organization

- Order and structure
- Use of transitional strategies
- Introduction and conclusion
- Sequencing
- Paragraph breaks

5 – Thorough /very easy to follow / interesting

4 – Developed / makes sense

3 – Some / underdeveloped / same

Voice

- Engages reader
- Interest in the topic
- Liveliness, sincerity, honesty, excitement

5 – Lively / sincere / exciting / honest / very interested

4 – Parts / helps reader engage/seems interested

3 – Not / little interest

Word Choice

- Accuracy and precision of words used
- Content vocabulary
- Variety

5 – Interesting and precise / many rich content vocabulary words

4 – Variety of words / many content vocabulary words

3 – Little variety / repetition / some content vocabulary words

Sentence Fluency

- Ease in reading out loud
- Variety in sentence beginnings
- Variety in sentence lengths
- Variety in sentence patterns

5 – Smooth, very easy to read out loud / many different

4 – Easy to read out loud / different

3 – Parts are easy to read out loud / same

Conventions

- Punctuation
- Spelling
- Capitalization
- Grammar and usage

5 – Higher-level / correct / little need for editing

4 – Usually correct / requires some editing

3 – Some errors distract reader / much editing needed

Use of Sources

- Variety of sources
- Quantity and quality of information
- Accuracy
- List of sources

5 – Specific information / several sources / accurately cited / uses quotations or paraphrases

4 – Uses information / several sources / accurately identified / summarizes or paraphrases

3 – Some information / mainly one source / may be incorrectly identified / may include copied text