

Scoring Guide: Expository Writing

The primary purpose for expository writing is to inform or explain, using reliable and accurate information. Although usually associated with the research report or traditional essay, expository writing needn't always contain "just the facts." The writer might include personal experiences, details from his or her life, to enliven the piece. Strong expository writing has an authoritative, knowledgeable, and confident voice that adds credibility.

<p>6</p> <p>HIGH</p>	<p>EXCEPTIONAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Delves into what really matters about the topic.• Offers an insider's perspective.• Provides unexpected or surprising details that go beyond the obvious.• Is focused, coherent, and well organized.• Invites the reader to analyze and synthesize details to draw his or her own conclusions.• Is bursting with fascinating, original facts that are accurate and, when appropriate, linked to a primary source.• Contains anecdotes that bring the topic to life.• Anticipates and answers the reader's questions.• Stays on point and contains a compelling voice until the end.
<p>5</p> <p>MIDDLE</p>	<p>STRONG</p>
<p>4</p> <p>MIDDLE</p>	<p>REFINING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provides an overview of the topic and only a few key facts.• Offers the perspective of an outsider looking in.• Lacks fresh thinking or surprises. Relies too heavily on common knowledge. Provides mostly mundane, predictable details about the topic.• Is relatively focused, coherent, and organized. Generally stays on topic.• Contains focused descriptions, but also fuzzy ones. The writer doesn't consistently connect the dots.• Includes facts that are somewhat suspicious and not linked to primary sources.• Features few, if any, anecdotes to bring the topic to life• Does not anticipate the reader's questions.• Speaks in a spotty voice—commanding one moment, cautious the next.
<p>3</p> <p>LOW</p>	<p>DEVELOPING</p>
<p>2</p> <p>LOW</p>	<p>EMERGING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Misses the main point completely. The writer's purpose is not clear.• Offers a complete outsider's perspective.• Contains details that are completely unrelated to the main topic.• Is unfocused, incoherent, and poorly organized.• Makes sweeping statements. Nothing new is shared.• Lacks fascinating, original facts. Any facts the piece does contain are seemingly inaccurate or unsupported.• Contains no anecdotes to bring the topic to life.• Does not anticipate the reader's questions. In fact, the piece contains no evidence that the writer has thought about audience at all.• Requires energy to read from beginning to end.
<p>1</p> <p>LOW</p>	<p>RUDIMENTARY</p>