

4	Topic and main ideas are clearly conveyed and well supported. Response is focused.	Organization is clear and effective. Strong use of words, phrases, and clauses to link ideas. Conclusion strongly summarizes information.	Support is relevant; includes strong facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.	Ideas are clearly and effectively conveyed, using precise language and domain-specific vocabulary.	Command of conventions is strongly demonstrated.
3	Topic and main ideas are clear and adequately supported. Response is generally focused.	Organization is clear, with minor flaws. Adequate use of words, phrases, and clauses to link ideas. Conclusion adequately summarizes information.	Support is adequate and includes facts, definitions, concrete details, examples, quotations, or other information.	Ideas are adequately conveyed, using both precise and more general language; may include domain-specific vocabulary.	Command of conventions is sufficiently demonstrated.
2	Topic and main ideas are somewhat supported; lacks focus or includes unnecessary material.	Organization is inconsistent. Poor use of words, phrases, and clauses to link ideas. Conclusion somewhat summarizes information.	Support is incomplete; insufficient use of definitions, concrete details, quotations, examples, or other information.	Ideas are unevenly conveyed, using overly simplistic language; lacks domain-specific vocabulary.	Command of conventions is uneven.
1	Topic and main ideas are unfocused and insufficiently supported.	Organization is poor. Conclusion does not summarize information.	Support is weak or nonexistent.	Ideas are conveyed in a vague, unclear, or confusing manner.	There is very little command of conventions.
0	<p>Possible characteristics that would warrant a 0:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• no response is given</li> <li>• student does not demonstrate adequate command of informative writing traits</li> <li>• response is unintelligible, illegible, or off topic</li> </ul>				