

**Tulare County Office of Education**  
**Informative-Explanatory Writing Rubric**  
**Grade 1**



Score	Statement of Purpose/Focus	Organization	Elaboration of Evidence	Language and Vocabulary	Conventions
4	<p>The response addresses all aspects of the task and is fully sustained and consistently focused:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A topic is clearly stated, focused, and maintained</li> <li>• Relevant information/ explanation about the topic is provided</li> </ul>	<p>Writing is used in order to address the writing tasks with a consistent purpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifies the topic</li> <li>• Details/facts about the topic are provided in a logical manner</li> <li>• Provides a strong conclusion</li> </ul>	<p>The response provides thorough statements related to the prompt:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The topic is purposefully supported with multiple pieces of information related to the topic</li> </ul>	<p>The response clearly and effectively expresses ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses appropriate linking words (transitions) correctly</li> <li>• May have a strong sense of audience and purpose</li> </ul>	<p>The response demonstrates a strong command of conventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Few, if any, errors, in usage and sentence formation</li> <li>• Effective and consistent use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling</li> </ul>
3	<p>The response is adequately sustained and focused:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Topic is adequately stated for the most part maintained, though some loosely related material may be present.</li> <li>• Information/ explanation about the topic is provided</li> </ul>	<p>Writing is used in order to address the writing tasks with an adequate focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Topic is identified</li> <li>• Details/facts about the topic are provided</li> <li>• Provides a sense of closure</li> </ul>	<p>The response provides adequate statements and phrases related to the prompts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some information related to the topic is provided</li> </ul>	<p>The response adequately expresses ideas, employing a mix of precise with more general language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of vocabulary is generally appropriate</li> <li>• May have a sense of the audience and/or purpose</li> </ul>	<p>The response demonstrates an adequate command of conventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some errors in usage and sentence formation are present, but no systematic pattern of errors is displayed.</li> <li>• Adequate use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.</li> </ul>
2	<p>The response is somewhat sustained and may have a minor drift in focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Topic is unclear and is insufficiently sustained.</li> <li>• Information/ explanation is provided and not all relevant to the prompt</li> </ul>	<p>Writing is used to address the writing tasks with a focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The topic, if any, unrelated to the information provided</li> <li>• Additional details/facts provided (if any) are loosely connected</li> <li>• Closure/conclusion (if any) is weak</li> </ul>	<p>The response provides statements and phrases somewhat related to the prompt:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some information, if present, is provided but may not be related to the topic</li> </ul>	<p>The response expresses ideas unevenly, using simplistic language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of vocabulary that may be simplistic</li> <li>• May have little sense of the audience and/or purpose</li> </ul>	<p>The response demonstrates a partial command of conventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frequent errors in usage may obscure meaning</li> <li>• Inconsistent use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling</li> </ul>
1	<p>The response may be related to the topic but may offer little or no focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Major drift in focus</li> <li>• No supporting information/ explanation is provided</li> </ul>	<p>Writing is used to address the writing tasks with an unclear focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Topic is unclear</li> <li>• No additional details/facts are provided</li> <li>• Missing conclusion and/or no sense of closure</li> </ul>	<p>The response provides statements and phrases unrelated to the prompt:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No additional information is provided</li> </ul>	<p>The expression of ideas, is vague, lacks clarity or is confusing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses limited language</li> <li>• May have no sense of audience or purpose</li> </ul>	<p>The response demonstrates a lack of command of conventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Errors are frequent and severe and meaning is often obscure</li> <li>• Use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling is not evident</li> </ul>
0	A response gets no credit if it provides no evidence of the ability to write an informative/explanatory piece.				