

Name: _____
School: _____
Teacher: _____
Period: _____ Grade: _____

Everett Public Schools

Secondary Writing Assessment

Student Packet



Grade 8

Baseline

Expository Writing

Writing Task: Expository Writing

Directions: Today, you will write an expository composition. In expository writing, a writer fully explains the main idea or thesis using details, reasons, and/or examples. In order to earn the best possible score, be sure that you follow directions and write in the expository mode.

For this writing task, you will have enough time to follow all of the steps of the writing process: prewriting, writing a first draft, revising, editing, and writing a final draft. Use your scratch paper for the pre-writing and first draft process. You must write your final draft for the writing task in this booklet to be scored.

You may use a dictionary or thesaurus. Electronic dictionaries or thesauruses must not have grammar hints, word prediction software or topic specific dictionaries.

Your score will be based on the scoring criteria listed below. Be sure to refer to this checklist of scoring criteria to help you write an effective expository essay.

Scoring Criteria for the Writing Task

Checklist for Writing to Inform or Explain

My essay or letter will explain successfully if I select specific, relevant content and organize my writing well.

That means I should

- ☐ follow the directions given in the writing prompt;
- ☐ narrow my topic;
- ☐ stay focused on the main ideas;
- ☐ elaborate by using reasons, well-chosen and specific details, examples, and/or anecdotes to support my ideas;
- ☐ include information that is interesting, thoughtful, and necessary for my audience to know;
- ☐ organize my writing with an introduction, supporting paragraphs with main points and elaboration, and an effective conclusion;
- ☐ organize my writing in effective paragraphs;
- ☐ use transitions to connect my ideas.

My essay or letter will explain successfully if I demonstrate an effective style.

That means I should

- ☐ show that I care about my topic by writing in a voice appropriate for my audience and purpose,
- ☐ use language that is appropriate for my audience and purpose,
- ☐ use specific words and phrases that help the reader understand my ideas,
- ☐ use sentences of varied length and structure.

My essay or letter will be more effective if I follow conventions in writing.

That means I should

- ☐ follow the rules of grammar and Standard English usage,
- ☐ spell words correctly,
- ☐ use correct capitalization,
- ☐ use correct punctuation,
- ☐ write complete sentences,
- ☐ indicate where new paragraphs begin.

Expository Writing Task

Final Draft

Directions: Before you begin your final draft, read the checklist on the previous page again. Then make revisions and edits to your first draft according to the checklist. When you have made your revisions and edits, write your final draft on this page and the next four pages, as needed.

After you have finished writing your final draft in the booklet, read the checklist one more time to make sure you have done your most effective writing. You may then make any final revisions or edits to your essay. Your **final draft** below will be scored.

Your Task

Life can be full of surprises that have an effect on our lives. Identify a time when you experienced this type of surprise. Write a multiple-paragraph essay to a teacher explaining how the surprise affected your life in either a positive or negative way.

Begin your **final draft** below.

[illegible]

Expository Writing

Final draft

You may use this space to continue your **final draft**.

[illegible]

Expository Writing

Final draft

You may use this space to continue your **final draft**.

[illegible]

Expository Writing

Final draft

You may use this space to continue your **final draft**.

[illegible]

Expository Writing

Final draft

You may use this space to continue your **final draft**.

[illegible]