

Name:

Date:

/100

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DIRECTIONS: Write an informational essay from the list of topics on the next page, or one you negotiate with your teacher. You may have to do research in the library or on the internet. Be sure to attach this page to the front of your work before you hand it in. Your teacher will use the rubric below to mark your essay.

	<i>Exceptional</i>	<i>Very Good</i>	<i>Competent</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Incoherent</i>
<i>Characteristic</i>	6	5	4	3	2	1
<i>Spelling</i> /10	Virtually no errors 9	Few, if any errors 8	Several errors in spelling 7	Frequent errors in spelling 6	Many spelling errors, but commonly used words spelled correctly 5	Many spelling errors including misspelled commonly used words <5
<i>Grammar & Sentence Structure</i> /20	Sophisticated use of grammar and sentence structure with few, if any, errors 18	Sentence structure is varied with minor grammar errors 16	Adequate variation in sentence structure and grammar 14	Occasional errors in sentence structure and grammar which don't obscure meaning 12	Frequent errors in sentence structure and grammar which obscure meaning at times 10	Frequent, serious errors in sentence structure and grammar obscure meaning <10
<i>Organization of Essay</i> /20	Superior use of organization and transitions 18	Logically organized, ideas flow, good use of transitions 16	Adequate organization supported by adequate transitions 14	Has a beginning, middle and end, with poor transitions 12	Has a beginning, middle and end, but no transitions 10	No discernible beginning, middle or end <10
<i>Focus on Topic</i> 20	Superior focus on topic in purposeful and insightful manner 18	Focused on topic 16	Focused on topic, but occasionally has ideas which are not on topic 14	Loses focus with ideas which are loosely connected or off topic 12	Frequently includes ideas which are not on topic 10	Mostly off topic <10
<i>Understanding of Topic</i> /15	Superior understanding of topic 13.5	Very good understanding of topic 12	Adequate understanding of topic 10.5	Limited understanding of topic 9	At least partial misunderstanding of topic 7.5	Does not understand topic at all <7.5
<i>Support for Thesis</i> /15	Sophisticated and elaborate examples in support 13.5	Specific examples and details in support 12	Adequately specific support 10.5	A mixture of specific and generalized support 9	What support there is consists of generalization 7.5	No supporting examples used <7.5

Informational Essay Topics

- Why your favourite breed of dog or cat is a good choice.
- Why smoking is bad for you.
- Why your town is the best/worst place to live.
- Why adding Grade 10 to the graduation requirements is a good/bad idea.
- Why you would choose to live in the country you pick.
- Why your favourite band is the best.
- How to learn to play a musical instrument.
- How to start a summer business.
- How to apply for a job.
- A topic which your teacher approves **before** you start writing.