

	Above Grade-level	On Grade-level	Moving Toward Grade-level	Not YET on Grade-level
Score				
Overall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crafts complex text, intentionally selecting argumentative, expository, and narrative structures and techniques to present ideas in nuanced ways. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discusses complex concepts, presenting facts and information in an engaging manner, teaching readers significant concepts and information. • Conveys the sources of the information and analyzes them when relevant. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discusses complex concepts, presenting facts and information in an engaging manner, teaching the reader significant concepts and information. • Conveys the sources of the information and analyzes them when relevant. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discusses key concepts within a topic and makes it clear why these concepts are important. • Provides examples with relevant information, using a variety of text structures and formatting, as needed, to make concepts and information compelling and accessible.
IDEAS & ORGANIZATION				
Orientation/ Opening (Lead)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selects points of view and perspectives to introduce claims, topics, problems, situations, or observations. • Entices readers to construct inferences and begin analyzing the significance of the issue or issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writes an engaging lead that explains the topic's significance, contextualizing it with background information, and mentions key points of view or issues that will be discussed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writes an engaging lead that explains the topic's significance, contextualizing it with background information, and mentions key points of view or issues that will be discussed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After hooking the reader, provides context, introduces a focus /main idea, and orients readers to the overall structure of the text (compare /contrast, cause and effect, claims and support, classification, etc.).
Development of Ideas (Elaboration)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angles and/or frames key concepts, evidence, and details to construct meaning, anticipating and extending audience's attitudes, beliefs, and perceptions about the topic. • Uses elaboration, reflection, and evaluation techniques to advance the overall purpose of the writing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explains key concepts providing specific and relevant context and background. • Uses specific examples to elaborate and evaluate their purpose. • Analyzes the facts and information, evaluating the relevance of cited source material. • Includes trustworthy and significant sources of information; analyzes and critiques these sources when relevant. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develops key concepts, giving some context and background. • Uses examples to clarify, explain, and interest. • Analyzes the facts and information, explaining the relevance of cited source material. • Includes trustworthy and significant sources of information, analyzes and critiques these sources when relevant. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brings out the parts of the topic that are most significant to the audience and to the point(s). • Analyzes the relevance of the information and makes sure the information supports the major concepts. • Incorporates trustworthy and significant sources, and explains if and when a source seems problematic.
Development of Internal Structure (Organization & Transitions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selects compelling and varied techniques and structures that match the dominant mode of each part of the text moving readers toward analytical understanding. • Layers claims, information, and experiences to establish references and themes allowing for inferential understanding. • Uses transitions to show the relationships between the parts of the text connecting prior sections and previewing future sections. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple structures organize the content within the text • Layers information allowing for inferential understanding. • Sections build on each other logically, allowing readers to develop knowledge and deepen understandings. • Uses transitional phrases to show the relationships between the parts of the text, including references to prior sections and previewing future sections. • Uses transitions to show the source cited information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizational structure introduces and layers key concepts and information. • Layers information to maintain tension, engage the reader's interest, and/or build complexity. • Sections build on each other logically, allowing the reader to develop knowledge and deeper understandings. • Uses transitional phrases to show the relationships between the parts of the text, including references to prior sections and previewing future sections. • May use transitions to show the source cited information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focuses on key concepts within the topic. • Organizes information and ideas into broader categories and clarifies how sections are ordered and connected. • Uses organizational structure(s) to help the reader's comprehension, perhaps holding back details until first conveying broader points, or only offering a second perspective after the first is established. • Sections and information build on each other throughout the piece: concepts and examples are introduced in a logical fashion. • Uses transitions to lead readers across parts of the text and to help them note how parts of the text relate back to earlier parts.

Closure (Ending)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows readers opportunities to infer and analyze the significance of topics, claims, problems, situations, or observations. Offers final moment(s) or idea(s) for readers to ponder. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthens implications, builds up the significance of the main points, and/or alludes to potential challenges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthens implications, builds up the significance of the main points, and/or alludes to potential challenges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggests implications, builds up the significance of the main points, and/or alludes to potential challenges.
CRAFT & STYLE				
Word Choice and Tone (Craft)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selects precise language and literary devices to craft tone and capture and sustain the audience's receptiveness, interest, and understanding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affects readers in particular ways carefully selecting precise language. Uses appropriate and well-crafted literary devices. Varies tone to match specific purposes and amplify overall impact. Selects formatting specific to genre and purpose. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intends to affect readers in particular ways – to make the reader think, realize, or feel a particular way – and selects particular language to do that. Uses other literary devices, and may use allusions. Varies the tone to match the purposes of different sections of the argument, as well as to develop an overall impact. Selects formatting, considering the form to best convey the content. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intends to affect readers in particular ways – to make the reader think, realize, or feel a particular way – and selects language to do that. Consistently uses comparisons, analogies, vivid examples, and/or anecdotes to help readers grasp the meaning of concepts and the significance information. Varies tone to match the different purposes of different sections of the piece.
Sentence Fluency/ Syntax (Sentence Structure)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selects sentence structures and verb tenses to emphasize connections, influence pace and tone, clarify, and add complexity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses sentence structure and verb tense to influence pace and tone. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses sentence structure and verb tense purposefully (i.e., using fragments to emphasize key points; using present tense to create immediacy). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses different sentence structures to achieve different purposes throughout the piece. Uses verb tenses that shift when needed (as in when moving from a citation back to own writing), deciding between active and passive voice where appropriate.
LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS				
Conventions (Spelling & Punctuation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selects capitalization, punctuation, and spelling to emphasize connections, influence pace and tone, clarify, and add complexity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses punctuation to emphasize connections, to strengthen tone, to clarify, and to add complexity. Spells accurately throughout, including cited text and citations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses punctuation to emphasize connections, to strengthen tone, to clarify, and to add complexity. Spells accurately throughout, including cited text and citations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses internal punctuation effectively, including the use of ellipses to accurately insert excerpts from sources. Checks spelling of technical, domain-specific words and is careful with the spelling and details of citations, excerpts, quotations, and statistics.