

Grades 6-12: Informational-Explanatory Paragraph Rubric  
Common Core State Standards (CCSS)/NUSD

Score	Establishment of Purpose/Focus and Organization		Development: Language and Elaboration of Evidence		Conventions
	Topic Sentence	Supporting Details (Evidence)	Sentence Variation	Language and Vocabulary	
4	Topic sentence is clear, correctly placed, and restated in the closing sentence	Paragraph has three supporting sentences and detail sentences that clearly relate to the main idea	Paragraph uses a variety of sentence types	Response clearly and effectively expresses ideas, using content appropriate language and transitional phrases	The response has few, if any, errors in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>punctuation</li> <li>capitalization</li> <li>spelling</li> </ul>
3	Topic sentence is somewhat clear, correctly placed, and restated in the closing sentence	Paragraph has three supporting sentences and some detail sentences that relate to the main idea	Paragraph uses at least two sentence types	Response adequately expresses ideas, using a mix of content appropriate and more general language and transition words	The response has some errors in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>punctuation</li> <li>capitalization</li> <li>spelling</li> </ul>
2	Topic sentence is somewhat unclear, incorrectly placed, or not restated in the closing sentence	Paragraph has less than three supporting sentences and detail sentences that relate to the main idea	Paragraph uses only one sentence type	Response expresses ideas using general and simple language and some transition words	The response has many errors in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>punctuation</li> <li>capitalization</li> <li>spelling</li> </ul>
1	Topic sentence is unclear, incorrectly placed, and not restated in the closing sentence	Paragraph is missing supporting sentences and/or detail sentences that relate to the main idea	Paragraph has incomplete sentences	Response expresses ideas using very simple, unclear, or confusing language with very few, if any, transition words	The response is difficult to understand because of the frequent errors in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>punctuation</li> <li>capitalization</li> <li>spelling</li> </ul>
0	A response earns no credit if it provides no evidence of ability to write an informational/explanatory paragraph.				