

*Union School District*  
**GRADE 6-8 SCORING GUIDE: Expository Writing**

11/30/11

<b>ELEMENTS OF WRITING</b>	<b>4 ABOVE STANDARD</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•addresses all parts of the writing task</li> <li>•shows clear understanding of purpose and audience</li> </ul>	<b>3 AT STANDARD</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•addresses all parts of the writing task</li> <li>•shows a general understanding of purpose and audience</li> </ul>	<b>2 APPROACHING STANDARD</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•addresses only parts of the writing task</li> <li>•shows little understanding of purpose and audience</li> </ul>	<b>1 BELOW STANDARD</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•addresses only one part of the writing task</li> <li>•shows no understanding of purpose and audience</li> </ul>
<b>IDEAS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Includes a well-defined thesis</li> <li>•Presents detailed evidence, examples, and reasoning</li> <li>•Very informative with clear focus</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Includes an adequately defined thesis</li> <li>•Presents adequate evidence, examples, and reasoning</li> <li>•Adequately informative</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Thesis is unclear</li> <li>•Lacking details and examples</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•No evidence of thesis</li> <li>•Unclear focus</li> <li>•Little or no examples or details</li> </ul>
<b>VOICE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Clearly makes a strong reader/writer connection that is informative and engaging</li> <li>•Voice is knowledgeable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Sounds well-informed most of the time</li> <li>•Voice is credible, but not as informative</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Purpose lacks conviction and is risk-free</li> <li>•Voice sometimes sounds unsure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Purpose is not present; flat, lifeless, and mechanical</li> <li>•Voice is unsure</li> </ul>
<b>ORGANIZATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Maintains a consistent point of view, focus, and organizational structure</li> <li>•Effective use of appropriate transitions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Maintains a mostly consistent point of view, focus, and organizational structure</li> <li>•Use of some transitions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Maintains an inconsistent point of view, focus, or organizational structure</li> <li>•May include ineffective or awkward transitions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Lacks an organizational structure</li> <li>•Lacks transitions</li> </ul>
<b>SENTENCE FLUENCY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Writing has an easy flow, rhythm and cadence</li> <li>•Sentences are well constructed</li> <li>•Includes a variety of sentence types</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Includes a variety of sentence types</li> <li>•Sentences get the job done in a routine fashion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Includes little variety in sentence types</li> <li>•Simple and begin the same way</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Includes no sentence variety</li> <li>•Sentences are choppy, incomplete, rambling, or awkward</li> </ul>
<b>WORD CHOICE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Precise, descriptive language</li> <li>•Strong and engaging</li> <li>•Unfamiliar terms are explained or defined</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Functional, descriptive language</li> <li>•Some new terms are explained</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Weak, predictable language</li> <li>•Overused words; repetitive</li> <li>•New terms are assumed but not explained</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Vague, limited language</li> <li>•General or missing words make this essay hard to understand</li> </ul>
<b>CONVENTIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Contains few, if any, errors in conventions (grammar, punctuation, capitalization, spelling)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Contains some errors in conventions</li> <li>•Errors do not interfere with the reader's understanding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Contains several types of errors in conventions</li> <li>•Errors may interfere with the reader's understanding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Contains serious errors</li> <li>•Errors interfere with the reader's understanding</li> </ul>