

STAAR Expository Essay Rubric

Score	1	2	3	4
Organization	inappropriate structure, lacks clarity & direction	structure evident but may not be appropriate, ideas not always clear	structure appropriate to purpose	skillfully crafted with effective structure
	thesis missing or unclear	thesis weak	clear thesis	strong thesis
	weak transitions and/or connections between ideas ideas are weak	sometimes weak transitions and/or connections between ideas ideas are weak	generally logical and meaningful transitions and idea connections ideas are sufficient	logical and clear transitions and connections, thoughts "flow" ideas are effective
Development	supporting details are weak, inappropriate, unclear or lacking seems not to understand prompt or does not connect to prompt clearly	supporting details are weak or superficial does not demonstrate thoughtfulness, seems formulaic	supporting details are specific and appropriate demonstrates thoughtfulness, original rather than formulaic	supporting details are specific and well-chosen Thoughtful and engaging ideas
	word choice is unclear or limited seems not to understand expository writing tone may be inappropriate	word choice is too general, does not contribute to tone partial understanding of expository writing tone may be lacking	word choice is clear, specific and appropriate seems to understand expository writing tone is appropriate	word choice is strong and effective thoroughly understands the expository writing task tone is effective
Conventions	sentences simplistic, awkward or uncontrolled	sentences awkward or somewhat controlled	sentences varied and controlled	sentences purposeful and varied
	G.U.M.S.* errors interfere with understanding	partial command of G.U.M.S.* may sometimes distract	adequate command of G.U.M.S.*	consistent command of G.U.M.S.*; errors do not interfere

Adapted from TEA 2012

*Grammar, Usage, Mechanics and Spelling