Common Core Social Studies Literacy – Explanatory Writing Rubric for Grade Band 6-8

Requirement	4	3	2	1	0
Introduce a claim	Effectively Introduces a topic clearly, previewing what is to follow; organizes ideas, concepts, and information into broader categories as appropriate to achieving purpose	Introduces a topic clearly, previewing what is to follow; organizes ideas, concepts, and information into broader categories as appropriate to achieving purpose	Introduces a topic, organizes ideas, concepts, and information into broader categories as appropriate to achieving purpose	Introduces a topic without previewing or organizing information	No introduction is evident
Develop a topic	Effectively develops the topic with relevant, well-chosen facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.	Develops the topic with relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples	Develops the topic with some facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples	Develops the topic with few facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples	Development of the topic lacks facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples
Cohesion	Effectively uses appropriate and varied transitions to create cohesion and clarify relationships among ideas and concepts.	Mostly uses appropriate and varied transitions to create cohesion and clarify relationships among ideas and concepts.	Frequently uses appropriate and varied transitions to create cohesion and clarify relationships among ideas and concepts.	Seldom uses appropriate and varied transitions to create cohesion and clarify relationships among ideas and concepts.	No evidence of transitional words or phrases
Word choice	Effectively uses precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.	Uses precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.	Frequently uses domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.	Seldom uses domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.	Makes no use of domain-specific vocabulary
Style	Establish and maintain a formal style throughout the response.	Establish a formal style, but may not be consistent throughout the response.	Formal style is evident only on rare occasions throughout the response.	Does not effectively establish and maintain a formal style.	Does not establish and maintain a formal style.
Conclusion	Provides an effective concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented	Provides a partially effective concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented	Provides a partial concluding statement or section, but does not follow from and support the information or explanation presented.	Provides an ineffective concluding statement or section that gives no support to the explanation presented	No concluding statement is evident.