

FSPS Informational Writing Criteria - Grade 4

Writing to Inform

Writing Criteria: C

Key Skills and Understanding

CC.W.4.2 Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

Informational/Explanatory - Inform: Writing to inform uses facts to explain a topic.

Grade 4

Ideas/Research

Reflects research and planning

Selects relevant information (note taking)

Develops the topic with facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples related to the topic

Gathers and incorporates information from multiple sources

Consolidates information using key words

Lists/cites sources

Organization/Text Features

Includes a title that tells what the piece is about

Includes a strong lead that draws readers into the text

Introduces a topic clearly and groups related information in paragraphs and sections

Presents well-organized factual information

Supports main ideas with strong details

Includes a strong concluding statement or section that sums up the piece

Includes formatting (e.g., heading) labeled illustrations and supporting visuals

Language Style

Puts information in his or her own words

Uses linking words and phrases to add information and connect ideas (e.g., another, for example, also, because)

Uses precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform or explain the topic

Demonstrates sentence fluency

Note. Adapted from *Explorations in Nonfiction Writing: Grade K* (p. 4), by T. Stead and L. Hoyt, 2011, Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.

Mentor Text

Mentor Text:

1. http://www.lausd.net/Corona_EL/Mentor_Text.html
2. <http://writingfix.com/genres/informative.htm#demo>

Student Exemplars

Student Writing Exemplars:

1. http://www.corestandards.org/assets/Appendix_C.pdf
2. <http://www.nancymetz.com/pdf/writing/AtaGlance7-12.pdf>

Lesson Resources

Lesson Plans & Resources:

1. <http://www.d11.org/Instruction/Literacy/LanguageArts/Pages/k-5-Writing-Resources.aspx>
2. http://www.pps.k12.or.us/files/curriculum/Writing_Binder_Grade_4_Section_4.pdf
3. <http://blogs.muskegonisd.org/writers3to6/files/2009/03/3-6-09-report-research-unit-of-study.pdf>

Rubrics:

1. http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/lesson_images/lesson856/rubric.pdf
2. http://www.doe.k12.de.us/aab/English_Language_Arts/writing_rubrics.shtml
3. <http://www.whsd.k12.pa.us/userfiles/1650/Courses/16431/KidFriendlyInformationalRubric.pdf>

Graphic Organizers:

1. <http://projectwritemysu.wikispaces.com/file/view/graphic+organizers.pdf>

Professional Text:

1. Houston, G. (2004). *How Writing Works*. Boston, MA: Pearson Education, Inc.
2. Owocki, G. (2013). *The Common Core Writing Book*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann
3. Stead, T. & Hoyt, Linda. (2011). *Explorations in Nonfiction Writing*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann