# Informative-Explanatory Essay Writing Guide (Grades 3–5)

## Purpose, Focus, and Organization

The response is fully sustained and consistently focused within the purpose, audience, and task; and it has a clearly stated controlling idea and effective organizational structure creating coherence and completeness. The response includes most of the following:

- Strongly maintained controlling idea with little or no loosely related material
- Skillful use of a variety of transitional strategies to clarify the relationships between and among ideas
- Logical progression of ideas from beginning to end, including a satisfying introduction and conclusion

## Evidence and Elaboration

The response provides thorough and convincing support/evidence for the controlling idea or main idea that includes the effective use of sources, facts, and details. The response includes most of the following:

- Relevant evidence integrated smoothly and thoroughly with references to sources
- Effective use of a variety of elaborative techniques (including but not limited to definitions, quotations, and examples), demonstrating an understanding of the topic and text
- Clear and effective expression of ideas, using precise language
- Academic and domain-specific vocabulary clearly appropriate for the audience and purpose
- Varied sentence structure, demonstrating language facility

## Conventions

The response demonstrates an adequate command of basic conventions. The response may include the following:

- Some minor errors in usage, but no patterns of errors
- Adequate use of punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation, and spelling