

Rating Scale for Explanatory Texts

You can use this rating scale to assess each student's understanding of and ability to write explanatory texts throughout the year (including pre-assessment). You can use different coloured pens to show the student's progress.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Title: _____

SKILLS AND FEATURES	RATING AND COMMENTS 1. Not evident 2. With prompts 3. Mostly on own 4. On own consistently
Planning and Researching	
• Makes a plan	
• Gathers information	
• Has a purpose, e.g., to tell the reader how something works or why something happens	
Drafting	
• Writes a first draft	
• Stays on topic	
• Includes an opening statement about what will be explained	
• Gives the explanation in a logical sequence	
• Includes a concluding statement about the topic	
• Uses present tense	
• Uses common linking words (e.g., <i>and, then, because</i>)	
• Begins to define events in terms of time (e.g., <i>is when, it happens when</i>)	
• Includes a title (although may do this in the revising or editing stages)	
Revising	
• Uses a simple revising checklist	
• Adds, deletes, and changes ideas	
• Makes sure ideas are clear and expressed in sentences	
Editing	
• Uses a simple editing checklist	
• Corrects spellings	
• Checks punctuation and capitalization	
Sharing and Publishing	
• Writes with clear printing or cursive writing	
• Adds appropriate visual features (e.g., headings, titles, pictures, labels, diagrams, table of contents)	
• Shares account orally and rereads sections of the text	
• Publishes text in a suitable form (e.g., book, poster, brochure)	