

OWJL Essay Rubric

Organization & Progression (On Topic, Flows Smoothly)	
The introduction and conclusion establish the controlling idea, and every part of the paper supports that controlling idea. Ideas in the paper are logically organized and presented in a way that clearly supports the controlling idea.	4
The controlling idea of the paper is fairly clear, but is presented in a formulaic manner. Ideas in the paper are mostly logical, although at times the organizational structure of the paper is weak.	3
The paper contains a controlling idea, but it is not clear and focused. The ideas are not presented in a logical manner, and the organizational structure of the paper is often confusing.	2
The controlling idea of the paper is not clear at all, and the paper is often off topic. There is no organizational structure in the way the ideas are presented in the paper.	1
Development of Ideas (Details & Elaboration)	
Very clear and well-presented facts and details clearly and consistently support the controlling idea of the paper.	4
Facts and details are provided to support the controlling idea, but important information is either unclear or left out.	3
Facts and details are present, but they don't really support the controlling idea. Facts and details are often formulaic.	2
Very few facts or details present in the paper. No evidence to support the controlling idea is provided.	1
Use of Language / Conventions & Grammar	
Writer's word choice and language is clear, concise, and appropriate to the expository writing task. Writer shows consistent command of grammar with only minor punctuation or spelling mistakes.	4
Writer's word choice and language is mostly clear and unambiguous, and the tone of the paper is appropriate. Writer shows moderate command of grammar with occasional spelling and grammar mistakes.	3
Writing is formulaic and simple, and the tone is not appropriate to the expository writing task. Writer makes many mistakes that 7th grade students should not be making.	2
Writing is vague and confusing. Sentences are simple and awkward. Writer makes many grammar and spelling mistakes.	1