

Rubric for Explanations

SCORE	OVERALL EXPLANATION	USE OF DETAILS AND EVIDENCE	ORGANIZATION	STYLE, VOICE, AND CLARITY	CONVENTIONS AND MECHANICS
5 Outstanding	The explanation is compelling and complete and demonstrates a clear awareness of purpose, audience, and task	Ample and appropriately selected details effectively support the explanation throughout the response	Clear and consistent organization with well-executed transitions excellently supports a logical explanation that skips no steps	The response is clear and original and employs appropriate stylistic elements for effect in an exceptional manner	Syntax, grammar, and conventions are correct and add to the effectiveness of the response
4 Exceeds Expectations	The explanation is complete and demonstrates an awareness of purpose, audience, and task	Appropriately selected details support the explanation throughout the response	The organization is clear and supports the explanation in a satisfactory manner	The response is clear and employs appropriate stylistic elements for effect	Few or no errors are present in usage or syntax
3 Meets Expectations	The explanation is adequate and demonstrates some awareness of purpose, audience, and task	Details adequately support the explanation but may demonstrate some inconsistencies in execution or application	The organization supports the explanation but may lack transitions or miss steps	The response is mostly clear and adequately employs stylistic elements	Minor errors in usage or syntax may be present, but without repetition or undermining overall effectiveness
2 Approaching Expectations	The explanation is somewhat unclear and may demonstrate a lack of awareness of purpose, audience, or task	There is insufficient evidence to support the explanation well	Some flaws in organization or lack of transitions or clarity of steps makes the explanation difficult to follow	The response may be unclear or misuses stylistic elements in ways that interfere with voice and meaning	Patterns of errors in usage or syntax undermine the effectiveness of the response
1 Well Below Expectations	The explanation is vague or insufficient to the task	Evidence and details are missing or insufficient to support the explanation	The organization lacks focus and clarity; transitions may be unclear	The response is vague or lacks clarity; stylistic choices may confuse rather than enhance meaning	Significant errors in usage or syntax obscure the meaning and effectiveness of the response