Kentucky Writing Rubric

	Narrative	Informational/Explanatory	Opinion/Argumentation K-5/6-12
Criteria for Evaluating Writing			
Communicating with an Audience through **Purpose/Focus** • Establishes and maintains an authentic purpose • Addresses an appropriate audience • Establishes and maintains an awareness of audience needs	• Demonstrates audience awareness by establishing a context and maintaining a clear purpose • Engages the audience by employing a variety of techniques (e. g. dialogue, description, anecdote, rhetorical question, surprising fact, quotation) Conveys the significance and complexities of the experience, either explicitly or implicitly, whether real or imagined	• Establishes thesis/focused purpose • Indicates awareness of audience needs by providing relevant background & contextual information • Communicates purpose, responding to the anticipated needs of the audience	• Establishes purpose by introducing a(n) opinion/claim; maintains focus throughout • Indicates awareness of audience's needs by providing relevant background; anticipating audience's knowledge level and concerns; • Communicates purpose, responding to the anticipated needs of the audience by addressing reasons/alternate claims
Communicating with an Audience through **Idea Development** • Develops ideas with sufficient depth and complexity to support audience and maintain a focused purpose • Elaborates ideas with details, support & examples specifically relevant to the audience and purpose • Applies characteristics of the mode	• Develops ideas that convey insight about the experience or event • Uses effective examples and sensory details, if appropriate, illustrates and recreates the experience for the audience • Uses narrative techniques to develop ideas, experiences, events or characters (e.g. dialogue, pacing, description, etc.)	• Provides a thoughtful and insightful explanation of the subject by examining the topic/issue as a whole, and by identifying and discussing significant parts of the subject, • Uses general and specific details and examples to support understanding • Uses a variety of approaches to idea development (e.g., analysis, evaluation, narration, specific facts, quotes, examples, descriptions) to provide explanation of ideas and concepts	• Demonstrates depth of idea development by using facts, details and examples to support opinions/argument • Supports opinions/claims with relevant, reliable evidence • Uses a variety of approaches to develop ideas (e.g., analysis, evaluation, specific facts, quotes) to support the opinion/argument

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Communicating with an Audience though **Structure** • Demonstrates coherent and effective text structure in relation to the purpose • Includes a logical progression of ideas • Maintains coherence within and between paragraphs • Uses effective transitional elements within and between paragraphs guiding the reader through the text and clarifiying the relationship of events, ideas, concepts or arguments • Maintains control of sentence structure • Varies sentence structure effectively	• Organizes an event sequence that unfolds naturally for the reader • Includes a logical progression of ideas • Maintains coherence within and between paragraphs • Uses a variety of transitional words, phrases, and clauses to manage the sequence of events; uses effective transitional elements within and between paragraphs guiding the reader through the text and clarifiying the relationship of events • Maintains control of sentence structure • Varies sentence structure effectively	• Groups related information logically; include formatting when useful to aiding comprehension • Includes a logical progression of ideas • Maintains coherence within and between paragraphs • Links ideas within and across categories of information using words, phrases, and clauses (e.g., in contrast, especially) to guide the reader through the text and clarifiy the relationship of events, ideas, concepts or arguments • Maintains control of sentence structure • Varies sentence structure effectively	• Provides logically ordered reasons that are supported by facts and details. • Includes a logical progression of ideas • Maintains coherence within and between paragraphs • Link ideas within and across categories of information using words, phrases, and clauses (e.g., in contrast, especially) to guide the reader through the text and clarifiy the relationship of ideas, or opinions/ arguments • Maintains control of sentence structure • Varies sentence structure effectively
Communicating with an Audience through **Language & Conventions** • Selects and maintains word choices to effectively communicate with the audience • Employs voice and tone appropriate for audience and purpose • Communicates with audience effectively, applying correct grammar, usage and mechanics	• Use concrete words and phrases and sensory details to convey experiences and events precisely. • Employs voice appropriate for the audience and purpose • Communicates effectively with audience applying correct grammar, usage and mechanics	• Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic • Employs tone appropriate for the audience and purpose • Communicates effectively with audience applying correct grammar, usage and mechanics	• Use words, phrases, and clauses to clarify the relationships among opinions (s)/claim(s), reasons, and evidence. • Employs tone appropriate for the audience and purpose • Communicates effectively with audience applying correct grammar, usage and mechanics

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