

Grade 3 Writing Assessment

Informational Writing



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Defining Informational Writing

Informational Writing: Writing that enhances the reader's understanding of a topic by instructing, explaining, clarifying, describing, or examining a subject or concept.

Methods:

- Provides facts, statistics, descriptive details, comparison, contrast, analysis, evaluation, definition, humor, and personal anecdotes to convey a perspective on a topic.
- Responses include, but are not limited to, analyzing, clarifying, drawing conclusions, evaluating, making comparisons, making observations, predicting, problem-solving, reflecting

What Informational Writing Is and Is Not

An effective informational composition . . .	An effective informational composition is NOT:
Has a consistent focus and point of view	Writing about multiple, unrelated ideas
Includes relevant examples, facts, anecdotes, and details	A list of facts, a story, and/or personal anecdotes that do not inform the reader about the topic
Contains an appropriate organizational pattern (introduction, body, conclusion) for the purpose of informing the reader	A response in which ideas are not presented in logical order
Includes sufficient information to explain the topic	A brief paragraph containing only a few sentences
Uses a variety of resources and/or personal experience to inform the reader about the topic	A paper that is copied directly from source material
Uses a lively writing voice that captures the reader's interest	Flat, uninteresting writing
Uses descriptive language and grade-appropriate words	An essay that contains imprecise language and little sentence variety
May use a short narrative in the introduction to engage the audience	Writing that consists entirely of a story or the writer's opinion without informing the reader about the topic
Contains correct sentences, usage, grammar, and spelling that make the writer's ideas understandable	Incorrect sentences, usage, grammar, and spelling that prevent the reader from understanding the writer's ideas

The Informational Sample for the Grade 3 Writing Assessment

- Writing Assignments may be related to all content areas specified in the Grade 3 GPS and may be produced during content area instruction.
- Writing assignments may be related to any type of non-fiction writing whose purpose is to inform or explain a topic to a reader.
- Students should incorporate information from resources (books, on-line sources, etc.) without copying the information verbatim.
- Paraphrasing information and using technical vocabulary from source material is appropriate for the informational assessment sample.
 - For example, the informational samples collected for this guide on the topic of minerals may use technical vocabulary such as igneous, metamorphic, or sedimentary rocks.

Georgia Grade 3 Writing Assessment: Scoring Rubric
INFORMATIONAL WRITING

Domain 1: Ideas - The degree to which the writer establishes a focus and develops the main points with examples, facts, anecdotes, and details.

Component	Does Not Meet Standard	Meets Standard	Exceeds Standard
Focus	Little or no evidence of focus, purpose, or point of view	Generally consistent focus; some evidence of a purpose and point of view	Sustained focus, purpose, and point of view
Supporting Details	Examples and details are limited and may be irrelevant	Includes some relevant examples, facts, anecdotes, and/or details	Relevant examples, facts, anecdotes, and details are used throughout the paper
Use of Resources	Little or no use of resources; may copy text from source materials	Some evidence of information from source materials	Appropriate use of resources; may paraphrase relevant information from source materials
Development/Completeness	Insufficient information to explain the topic	Sufficient information to explain the topic	Complete information; the topic is well developed

Domain 2: Organization - The degree to which the ideas are arranged in a clear order with an introduction, body, and conclusion.

Component	Does Not Meet Standard	Meets Standard	Exceeds Standard
Organizational Pattern (Introduction, body, conclusion)	Little or no evidence of an organizational pattern	Contains an introduction, body, and conclusion; one part of the paper may not be as strong as the others	Clear and appropriate organizational pattern with a strong introduction, body, and conclusion
Grouping of Ideas	Ideas are not arranged in a meaningful order	Related ideas are generally grouped together	Related ideas are consistently grouped together; may use specific strategies (e.g., questions and answers, cause and effect, similarity and difference)
Transitions	Little or no evidence of transitions	Transitions are used but may not be varied	Varied transitional elements link parts of the paper

Domain 3: Style - The degree to which the writer controls language to capture the reader's interest.

Component	Does Not Meet Standard	Meets Standard	Exceeds Standard
Word Choice	Language is simple, repetitive, or imprecise; little or no interesting language	A mixture of simple, ordinary language and interesting language (e.g., descriptive language, technical vocabulary, sensory details)	Sustained use of interesting language (e.g., descriptive language, technical vocabulary, sensory details)
Audience Awareness	Little or no awareness of audience	Some attention to the audience; some sense of the writer's voice	Attention to the audience in the introduction, body, and conclusion; writer's voice is clear and appropriate

Georgia Grade 3 Writing Assessment: Scoring Rubric
CONVENTIONS
All Genres

Domain 4: Conventions - The degree to which the writer demonstrates control of Sentence Formation, Usage, and Mechanics.				
Component	Element	Does Not Meet Standard	Meets Standard	Exceeds Standard
Sentence Formation	Clarity and Correctness	More incorrect and unclear sentences than correct, clear sentences	Majority of clear and correct sentences	Consistently clear and correct sentences
	Complexity	Little or no variation in sentence structure	Some variation in sentence structure	A variety of sentence structures with some complex or compound sentences
Usage	Subject/Verb agreement	Frequent and severe agreement mistakes	Agreement is generally correct with some mistakes	Few, if any, agreement mistakes
	Noun Forms (singular, plural, possessives)	Frequent mistakes in noun forms	Majority of correct noun forms with occasional mistakes	Consistently correct singular, plural, and possessive nouns
	Personal and Possessive Pronouns	Frequent mistakes using personal and possessive pronouns	Generally correct personal and possessive pronouns with only occasional mistakes	Consistently correct personal and possessive pronouns
Mechanics	Spelling	Frequent and severe spelling errors that may distract the reader, including misspellings of common words	Generally correct spelling; spelling errors do not distract the reader	Consistently correct spelling with few errors; spelling errors occur in words that are above grade level
	Punctuation (commas, apostrophes, quotation marks)	Frequent errors in punctuation; some basic punctuation (commas in a series) may be correct	Generally correct punctuation with occasional mistakes	Correct punctuation in a variety of contexts
	Capitalization	Frequent errors in capitalization; some basic capitalization (first word in a sentence) may be correct	Generally correct capitalization with occasional mistakes	Correct capitalization in a variety of contexts
	Contractions	Frequent mistakes forming contractions (missing or incorrectly placed apostrophes)	Generally correct use of contractions	Consistently correct use of contractions; may use a variety of contractions

Three Levels of Development

Does Not Meet the Standard in Ideas

Hi my name is JR. I will like to tell you about quartz. They look they feel soft and some are kind of rough. The loctain is in Goirge an other place. They uses for window glass wactchs.

Meets the Standard in Ideas

I think quartz is a very interesting mineral for several reasons. It is one of the hardest minerals. It is a 7 hardness. You can find quartz in grey, white, purple, brown and pink. Did you know that quartz can be found in rocks all over the world? It's the most common mineral and is also found in Georgia. Quartz can be changed by water, wind, and fire. One thing I did not know is that quartz it is used to make windows, glass, lens, for eyeglasses and even clocks. Some people even use it to make paint!

Three Levels of Development

Exceeds the Standard in Ideas

Imagine you are climbing Georgia's mountains. You find a big rock. Then you hit it with a hammer. Ta da! Something shiny and sparkly is in it. That is a quartz. It is one of the hardest minerals. It is so hard it can scratch other minerals. It's a number 7 on the Moh's hardness scale so it can scratch one through six.

The color shape and size of quartz can be different. You can find quartz in grey, white, purple, brown and pink. Purple quartz is called amethyst. Quartz is found worldwide. It is the most common mineral on the face of the earth. You can find quartz at the beach. Yep, that's right, quartz is in sand.

Quartz changes by weathering. It doesn't break down easy though. Unlike many minerals it doesn't expand when it is heated or crack when it is cooled. One thing I did not know is that quartz it is used to make windows, glass, lenses for eyeglasses and even clocks. Now that I know so much about quartz I feel like a geologist.

Model Papers

Informational Papers with Score Point Annotations

Informational Writing Assignment

Students will select one of Georgia's state gems or minerals (quartz, amethyst, etc.) or a mineral that is native to their region. They will use various internet and nonfiction resources to gather information and write a report about their mineral or gem. Their reports will include: where the mineral is found, a description of its physical attributes, and its uses.

The sample papers in this section were written in response to this assignment. Student names have been removed for purposes of privacy.

Quartz

DID you know quartz
come in different size
and shape colors, like
pink, purple, black and
brown. and you can
find quartz in GA
too. did you know
people use quartz
for glass and many
other things.

Annotations for Informational Paper 1

Ideas: Does Not Meet Standard

There is minimal evidence of focus because all the information included in the paper is relevant to the topic of the mineral quartz. However, there is not enough information overall in this response to explain the topic. The three sentences are not enough to establish a purpose or point of view.

Organization: Does Not Meet Standard

There is little evidence of an overall organizational pattern. There is an opening question, but the remaining two sentences could be rearranged without affecting the writer's meaning. There is no conclusion and very little in the way of a body, so it is not possible to determine competence in grouping of ideas. There is no evidence of transitions. The three sentences are not sufficient to establish an organizational plan.

Style: Does Not Meet Standard

Word choice is simple and repetitive ("Did you know," "did you know"). Although the writer lists four colors of quartz (pink, purple, black, and brown), there is little use of descriptive language or sensory details. The writer's "Did you know" questions are evidence that the writer is aware of the reader, but overall, this response is so brief that there is insufficient evidence of competence in Style.

Conventions: Does Not Meet Standard

There are only three sentences, none of which are correct. There are mistakes in subject/verb agreement ("come" for "comes,") and noun forms ("size" for "sizes," "shape" for "shapes"). Some words at the beginnings of sentences are not capitalized. There are frequent spelling errors in simple words ("coloers," "blak," "fine," "peple," "yous"). The apostrophe in "thing's" is unnecessary. Even if the writer had not made any errors in conventions, this paper is too brief to demonstrate competence in Conventions.

Quartz - 4-10-06 2006

Did you know that a Quartz stone
and different size, like, randomly
shaped and colored and they look
like they are glowing and they are
so so smooth that you can see
it. Did you know that
people used quartz for
glass and many other things.

Annotations for Informational Paper 2

Ideas: Does Not Meet Standard

There is minimal evidence of focus because all the information included in the paper is relevant to the topic of the mineral quartz. However, there is not enough information overall in this brief response to explain the topic. There is no evidence of use of source materials. The two sentences do not establish a purpose or point of view.

Organization: Does Not Meet Standard

Evidence of an organizational pattern is limited by the brevity of this paper. The writer may have been trying to use a question/answer format, but two sentences are not enough to establish a pattern. There are no transitions, and not enough ideas to determine competence in grouping related ideas.

Style: Does Not Meet Standard

The word choice is simple and repetitive. The writer attempts to include some sensory details (“they look like they’re wiggling,” “so so small”) about quartz. The questions posed to the reader are evidence of some awareness of the reader/audience. Overall, a paper this brief does not contain enough instances of the components to determine competence in Style.

Conventions: Does Not Meet Standard

There are only two sentences, a long run-on and one correct sentence. Frequent and severe spelling errors of common words distract the reader (nearly half of the words in this paper are misspelled). It is difficult to determine competence in usage because of the spelling errors, but it appears that there are severe errors in forming subjects and verbs. The writer does not demonstrate competence in any of the components of conventions.

Limestone

by

Limestone is made from shell of sea creatures. It is used for in glass making, windows, glasses, and mirrors, also steel ~~concrete~~.

The rock looks like white clay, tan, or yellow and it smooth. It is sedimentary rock mostly calcite.

Annotations for Informational Paper 3

Ideas: Does Not Meet Standard

There is minimal evidence of focus because all the information included in the paper is relevant to the topic of the mineral quartz. However, there is not enough information overall in this brief response to explain the topic. The term “sedimentary rock” indicates some use of resource material, but four brief sentences do not establish a purpose or point of view.

Organization: Does Not Meet Standard

There is no evidence of a beginning, middle, or end. The four sentences could be arranged in almost any order without affecting the writer’s meaning. There are not enough ideas to determine competence in grouping related ideas.

Style: Does Not Meet Standard

Most of the word choice is simple with the exception of “sea creatures” and “sedimentary rock mostly calcite.” Listing the colors of limestone does not constitute use of sensory details. There is no awareness of audience.

Conventions: Does Not Meet Standard

Although there are several correct sentences, this is not enough information to determine competence in forming correct sentences. Most of the components of usage are correct (although there are some missing words), but overall there are not enough correct instances to determine competence in usage. Except for some incorrect commas, mechanics are generally correct, but there is not enough demonstrated to determine competence in any of the components of Conventions.

Limestone.

By:

I have been studying about Limestone. Did you know that Limestone is found on the beach from shells from sea creatures that died many years ago? It can be used to make glass, windows, mirrors, steel, and concrete.

Did you know that Limestone can be many different colors like white, gray, tan, yellow, or it can look like a mixture of sand? It is usually smooth. Did you know it is a sedimentary rock and the rock is made up of calcite? Be on the lookout for Limestone.

Annotations for Informational Paper 4

Ideas: Meets Standard

The writer is consistently focused on the topic of limestone. There is evidence of an awareness of the informational purpose as the writer explains the composition of limestone, the uses of limestone, and the appearance of limestone. The writer attempts to write from the point of view of an authority about limestone rather than from personal experiences. There is enough information to provide a sense of completeness.

Organization: Meets Standard

The paper contains an introduction, body, and conclusion. The introduction is not particularly effective as the writer announces “I have been studying about limestone.” The majority of related ideas are grouped together, but the information about the composition of limestone is split between the first and second paragraphs (the calcite and the shell from sea creatures are related ideas). The pronoun “It” is used as a transition to relate back to the word limestone.

Style: Meets Standard

The paper is a mixture of interesting language and simple language. “I have been studying about limestone” is simple language. “Did you know that Limestone is found on the beach from the shells of sea creatures that died many years ago?” is interesting language.). There is some evidence of use of resources in the use of the terms “sedimentary rocks” and “calcite.”

Conventions: Meets Standard

All of the sentences are correct. Subject verb agreement, noun forms, and pronouns are correct. There are two misspelled words (“stuiding,” “differnt”). Overall, the paper is almost error free, but there is not much variety in any of the three components. Brevity and lack of variety keep this paper in the “meets standard” category.

Quartz

By: _____

Informational
Paper 5

The mineral I researched is Quartz. Quartz are mainly found everywhere. It is used for making jewelry and gems types of glass and ordinary sandpaper.

It sometimes look like clear pink, and brown, yellow, and purple, white.

The mineral is common but some be valuable. It has been very important mineral in industry because of its properties for thousand of years.

Annotations for Informational Paper 5

Ideas: Meets Standard

The writer is consistently focused on the topic of quartz. There is evidence of an awareness of the informational purpose as the writer explains the uses of quartz, the appearance of quartz, and the value of quartz. The writer attempts to write from the point of view of an authority about quartz rather than from personal experiences. There is evidence of the use of source materials in the technical vocabulary (mineral, properties, industry). The writer's ideas help the reader understand that even though quartz is common, it is also important and valuable. There is enough information to provide a sense of completeness.

Organization: Meets Standard

The paper contains an introduction, body, and conclusion. The introduction is limited to an announcement of the writer's topic ("The mineral I researched is Quartz."). Related ideas are grouped together (where quartz is found, uses of quartz, appearance of quartz, value of quartz). The writer uses transition words to link ideas (quartz, it, the mineral).

Style: Meets Standard

Word choice is a mixture of interesting language ("ordinary sandpaper," "clear pink," "mineral is common," "valuable," "properties," "thousands of years") and simple language.

Conventions: Meets Standard

Most of the sentences are correct, although there are some missing words ("It has been very important mineral.") which require the reader to "fill in the blanks." There are a couple of subject-verb agreement errors ("It look," "Quartz are"). Capitalization is correct but there are some commas missing in series. Two words are misspelled (industry, importan), but these are not common words for third grade writers. Overall, the writer demonstrates competence in sentence formation, usage, and mechanics.

Kaolin

Informational
Paper 6

Do you like rocks?

Because this is a very special rock, Kaolin is found in countries and states. Some countries are United States, Great Britain, France, and Germany. The states are Georgia, South Carolina, Pennsylvania, Florida and North Carolina.

Kaolin is a pure white clay made of Feldspar that has decomposed. Kaolin is made up of rich rocks as granites. The hardness is 1.5-2 (can leave marks on paper). Color is usually white, colorless, greenish or yellow. Luster is earthy. Streak is white.

Did you know Kaolin had many uses? Well here are some: paint, rubber and plastics and the largest use is in the paper industry to produce a glossy paper such as that used in most magazines.

Annotations for Informational Paper 6

Ideas: Meets Standard

The writer is consistently focused on the topic of kaolin. There is evidence of an awareness of the informational purpose as the writer explains where kaolin is found, the appearance of kaolin, the composition of kaolin, and the uses of kaolin. The writer attempts to write from the point of view of an authority about kaolin rather than from personal experiences. There is enough information to provide a sense of completeness. There is evidence of use of resource material as the writer lists many sites where kaolin can be found and attempts to explain hardness, luster and streak. More information would be needed for the reader to understand the concepts of luster and streak, but the majority of the paper is sufficiently developed.

Organization: Meets Standard

There is an introduction, body, and conclusion, but the conclusion is not as strong as the other parts and seems somewhat abrupt. (If the reader has to turn the page to see if anything is written on the back, the writer has not signaled the reader that the end is near.) Related ideas are grouped together (locations, attributes, uses). Some transitions are used ("Well here are some").

Style: Meets Standard

Some of the word choice is interesting ("very special rock," "pure white clay," "decomposed," "hardness," "colorless," "earthly," luster," "streak," "industry," "glossy paper"). The writer also uses some of the technical language of the field (luster, hardness, streak) and sensory details (colorless, greenish, glossy). Attention to the audience is evident as the writer asks questions of the reader ("Do you like rocks?") and addresses the reader directly ("Well here are some").

Conventions: Meets Standard

Although there are some errors in all of the components of Conventions, they are minor and do not distract the reader from the writer's meaning. The second sentence in the paper is a sentence fragment, but the majority of sentences are correct. There are some missing articles (*the* United States, *the* color, *the* luster, *the* streak) and the word "such" belongs in the sentence about rich rocks. Capitalization is effective and added through the Writer "F" seem to be unnecessarily capitalized. Commas are correct in some series but not in others. "Plactics" is misspelled. The writer displays sufficient competence in Conventions.

Koalin is the mineral I'm studying, it is found mostly in GA. and SC.. It is also found in GA, SC, NC, FL, and AL.. My class is going on a field trip to Western Georgia to find koalin. It is a claylike mineral that is made for tiles, mining, and walls. It's a weird looking mineral that is a white and rough like mineral. It is also used in making fiberglass, paint, paper, and rubber. It's made of tiny platelike crystals. Koalin is a chinese word. This is how you pronounce Koalin (Klay-uh-lee-n). It's color is usually white, colorless, greenish and yellow, and that's my story.

Annotations for Informational Paper 7

Ideas: Meets Standard

The writer is consistently focused on the topic of kaolin. There is evidence of an awareness of the informational purpose as the writer explains where kaolin is found, the appearance of kaolin, the uses of kaolin and the composition of kaolin. There are enough facts and details to explain the topic and purpose to the reader. The writer understands that the reader may not be familiar with the pronunciation of kaolin and explains how to pronounce the word. There is some evidence of use of resource materials as the writer describes kaolin: (“It’s made of tiny, platelike crystals.”).

Organization: Meets Standard

The paper contains an introduction, body, and conclusion, but the introduction is limited to an announcement (“Kaolin is the mineral I’m studying”), and the conclusion is abrupt (“and that’s my story.”). Related ideas (locations, uses, appearance, composition) are generally grouped together, but sometimes related ideas are located in different sections of the paper. Overall, the writer demonstrates competence in this domain.

Style: Meets Standard

The paper is a mixture of interesting language (“claylike mineral,” “weird lookin,” “fiberglass,” “tiny platelike crystals”) and simple language. The writer shows minimal awareness of audience by directly addressing the reader (“This is how *you* pronounce kaolin”).

Conventions: Meets Standard

Although the first sentence is a run-on, the majority of sentences are correct and clear. There is not a lot of variety in sentence structure as most of the sentences begin with “It is”. There are few subject-verb agreement mistakes and most nouns and pronouns are formed correctly (except weird-lookin”). Mechanics is generally correct, although “field” and “kaolin” are misspelled and the abbreviations of state names are not appropriate in formal writing. Most commas and apostrophes are used correctly.

Quartz

Imagine walking through woods in Georgia. Snap, Crackle, Pop, you stepped on a rock. You tap it. It sounds hollow, so you open it. Inside you see quartz.

There are MANY different types of quartz. Amethyst, Rose quartz, and Smokey quartz are quartz. They can be white, pink, purple gray, brown, or black. Some quartz are rough, kind of shiny in the middle, feel sort of bumpy, damp, prickly, dark gray or light black, egg shaped, and medium sized.

Quartz can be found anywhere. Did you know that quartz can be found in the state of Georgia? They can!

People use quartz in paint + glass.

Granite also has quartz in it. Well I'm
out of time. I know there are more interesting
facts I didn't mention, but I bet you
can figure them out.

Annotations for Informational Paper 8

Ideas: Meets Standard

The writer is consistently focused on the topic of quartz. There is evidence of an awareness of the informational purpose as the writer explains the types of quartz, where it can be found, the appearance of quartz, and the uses of quartz. There are enough facts and details to explain the topic and purpose to the reader, and some of the paper is elaborated with facts and details. There is enough information to provide a sense of completeness. The writer appears to be drawing on personal experiences of examining quartz rather than written source material.

Organization: Meets Standard

The paper contains an introduction, body and conclusion. The introduction is especially effective, but the rest of the paper is not as strong. It is not appropriate for the writer to announce (“Well I’m out of time.”) in the conclusion. Related ideas (appearance, location, uses of quartz) are grouped together. Transitions are used to link ideas.

Style: Exceeds Standard

The writer uses interesting language and sensory details (“kind of shiny in the middle,” “feel sort of bumpy,” “damp,” “prickly,” “egg shaped”) throughout the paper. The introduction is especially strong as the writer creates a vivid scene in which the reader discovers a piece of quartz on a walk through the woods. The writer directly addresses the reader in the body of the paper (“Did you know that quartz can be found in the state of Georgia? They can!”). Although the ending is a little clumsy (“Well I’m out of time.”), overall the writer’s use of language and awareness of audience exceed the standard.

Conventions: Exceeds Standard

Sentences are consistently clear and correct and show a variety of structures. Usage errors are limited to two incorrect verb forms (“Some quartz *are*,” “*feel* sort of bumpy”). Noun forms are consistently correct and varied. Personal pronouns are correct. Capitalization and punctuation are correct in a variety of contexts (commas in a series, commas after introductory clauses). Spelling is correct. The writer also manipulates mechanics to make a point by capitalizing all the letters in the word “MANY.”

Quartz

By

Informational
Paper 9

Guess What I thought
I was building a sand castle but
I was building a Quartz castle.
read on to find out more information.

Where does Quartz come from? Quartz comes from
Igneous, Sedimentary and Metamorphic.
Igneous rocks comes from a volcano
Sedimentary rocks comes from a river,
and Metamorphic rocks come from a
Igneous, Sedimentary or Metamorphic
that has been changed by heat and
pressure. Quartz is found in all three
types of rocks.

Quartz is found throughout
Georgia's Mountains. Quartz is
valuable to Georgia because it's a
gemstone. People like to make jewelry
out of Quartz.

Physical Attributes
Quartz can be any size.

The shape of Quartz is a hexagon.
The color of Quartz can be clear, purple, pink, green, blue, brown, yellow, black and white.

Informational
Paper 9
(page two)

Uses
In 1976 Quartz was adopted as Georgia's State Gemstone. Some rings, pendants and earrings can be made from Quartz. Mrs. D. showed us her ring that was purple Amethyst. Amethyst is a purple Quartz. I thought it was a beautiful gemstone. Quartz sand is used to make sand paper. The sand on the beach is Quartz. When I was at the beach I thought I was building sand but I was building a Quartz castle. Isn't that cool?

Changes
Quartz can be enormous there were 40 tons found in Brazil, and one of 70 tons was found in Kazakhstan.

Quartz weathers until it's
smaller than sand.

Now you see what I mean.
Quartz is all over the beach
and you can build a Quartz castle
at the beach.

Annotations for Informational Paper 9

Ideas: Exceeds Standard

The writer's focus is sustained on the topic of quartz. There is evidence of an awareness of the informational purpose as the writer explains how quartz is created in nature, where quartz can be found, the appearance of quartz, and the uses of quartz. Relevant examples and facts are used throughout the paper. The topic is well developed. The use of resources is apparent in the explanation of where quartz comes from and the three types of rocks. The writer's point of view is personal and the entire paper is framed in a discussion of how anyone who has ever built a sand castle at the beach has seen and touched quartz.

Organization: Exceeds Standard

The organizational pattern is clear and appropriate to the informational purpose. The introduction is strong as the writer tries to engage the reader by creating a puzzle or question to solve together with the writer. The body of the paper is organized with subheadings (where quartz comes from, physical attributes, uses, changes) which help the reader follow the writer's ideas. Related ideas are grouped into sections. The writer transitions from scientific explanation to personal experiences very smoothly, always reminding the reader that quartz is a common mineral, and by using subheadings for each section of the paper.

Style: Exceeds Standard

The use of interesting language is sustained in the paper as the writer switches between technical vocabulary (Igneous, sedimentary, metamorphic) and personal observations ("Isn't that cool?"). The writer's awareness of audience is very strong as the writer tries to create an air of mystery at the beginning of the paper ("I thought I was building a sand castle but I was building a quartz castle.") that is not solved until the end of the paper. This demonstrates an understanding of *craft*. The reader's interest is maintained throughout the paper.

Conventions: Meets Standard

Sentences are consistently clear and correct. There are few subject-verb agreement mistakes ("rocks comes"). Nouns and pronouns are consistently correct. The majority of the writer's errors are in spelling ("preasure," "blake," "jewly," "egnormous," "Ignous," "Sedmintary"), but many of these words are above grade level. Capitalization and punctuation are generally correct and varied. Errors are minor in all the components and do not distract the reader.

Quartz

Informational Paper 10

Did you know that sand is quartz?
Read on to find out more.

Formed and Found

Do you know how quartz is formed?
I do. Silicon and oxygen come together
as silicon and dioxide. Oxygen is the stuff
you breathe. Dioxide is the stuff plants
need. After you breathe in oxygen it turns into
dioxide. Then they form quartz. But they
have to form in open space. Isn't oxygen
found everywhere? Well quartz is too. It is
even found in Georgia.

Physical Attributes

Mr. Mathis is a geologist. A geologist is a
person who studies rocks and minerals.
He came to our class. He said that quartz
is a hexagonal shape. Did you know that sand
is quartz? I even got quartz on myself at
the beach. So it can be as big as boulders,
or as small as sand. Quartz is a rainbow

It is all different colors. Including rose (pink) amethyst (purple), sapphire quartz (blue), and milky (white). It is almost as hard as diamond. Because it is seven on Moh's Hardness Scale. Only three away from ten!

Uses

Do you think quartz is important? Quartz is one of the ingredients for electronics, jewelry, and clocks. Do you have a ring or a piece of jewelry that has a purple stone on it. It just might be quartz. Or rather amethyst. Lots of jewelry is made with quartz.

Changing Time

Quartz doesn't dissolve. It starts as big boulders, to cobbles, to gravel, to sand, and then to dust in the air. Then sometimes it goes into people's houses. So if you have quartz, you have a very valuable mineral.

Next time we go to the beach, I'm not going to say "let's build a sand castle." I'm going to say "let's build a quartz castle!"

Annotations for Informational Paper 10

Ideas: Exceeds Standard

The writer's focus is sustained on the topic of quartz. There is evidence of an awareness of the informational purpose as the writer explains the chemical composition of quartz, where quartz can be found, the appearance of quartz, the uses of quartz, and how quartz changes over time. Relevant specific examples and facts are used throughout the paper. The topic is well developed. The use of resources is apparent in the explanation of where quartz comes from and how it changes over time. Although the explanation of carbon dioxide and oxygen is not perfectly clear, the writer's competence exceeds the standard for grade three.

Organization: Exceeds Standard

The paper has a clear and appropriate organizational pattern. The writer uses the introduction to hook the reader by posing the question ("Did you know that sand is quartz?"). The body of the paper is grouped into sections of related ideas with subheadings. The writer also uses a question/answer format in each paragraph. Transitions are varied and effective.

Style: Exceeds Standard

The use of interesting language is sustained in the paper as the writer switches between technical vocabulary (carbon dioxide, oxygen) and addressing the reader with questions ("Isn't oxygen found everywhere?"). The writer's awareness of audience is very strong as the writer tries to create an air of mystery at the beginning of the paper ("Did you know that sand is quartz?") that is not solved until the end of the paper. This demonstrates an understanding of *craft*. The reader's interest is maintained throughout the paper and the writer's voice is clear throughout the paper ("Next time we go to the beach, I'm not going to say...").

Conventions: Exceeds Standard

Sentences are consistently clear and correct. The writer correctly uses several *functional fragments* ("But they have to form oxygen in open space"). Subjects and verbs consistently agree. Nouns, pronouns, and verbs are formed correctly. Capitalization and punctuation are consistently correct. Most of the writer's errors are in spelling ("silcon," "oxyen," "dioxside,hexonal," "amithyst," "sappire," "jewerly"), but these words are above grade level. Overall, the writer demonstrates a high level of competence in all three components of conventions.

Practice Papers

Informational Practice Papers 1 - 10

Applying the Scoring Rubrics

1. Read through the entire writing sample.
2. Use the scoring rubric to make a tentative decision.
3. Reread the entire writing sample to collect evidence to determine the final score.
4. Assign domain scores for Ideas and Organization.
5. Repeat the process for Style and Conventions domains.

Scoring Cautions

1. Do not base the score on the single most noticeable aspect of a paper.
2. Withhold judgment until you have read the entire response.
3. Don't allow the score you assign in one domain to influence the scores you assign in the other three domains.
4. Avoid making judgments based on neatness, novelty, or length.
5. Base each scoring decision on the assessment sample the writer has produced, not what you think the student's potential competence in writing may be.
6. Do not allow your personal opinions to affect the score the writer receives. Whether you agree or disagree with the writer's ideas should not influence your score.

Score Sheet for Informational Practice Papers

Paper #	Ideas	Org.	Style	Conv.
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				

The rock that I researched was bauxite. I want to tell you something I learned about bauxite. Do you know what it is used for? It is used in power lines, buildings and construction, cars and washing machines, pots and pans. Do you know where it was found? It was found in France, Georgia, Australia and Jamaica. Do you know how it looks like? It usually looks with white metal, silver, and it is very light in weight. Do you know other kind of information? Bauxite is also called Alumina. Bauxite is most commonly formed in deeply weathered rocks, it's mined in Europe. Bauxite is very useful to people so when you come to Europe you can dig for Bauxite.

By Granite

"Daddy can I go to Mount Rushmore? I just found out that Mount Rushmore is made out of granite." If you want to know more about granite, read on.

Where does it come from?

Granite is an igneous rock. An igneous rock is a rock that comes from a volcano. A volcano is found in the earth's crust, but leads to the mantle. The crust is the outer layer of the earth and the mantle is the middle layer of the earth. In the crust it is so hot that some rocks melt. The melted rock is called magma. Magma is the liquid stuff in a volcano. There are certain types of rocks and

minerals in the volcano and one is granite. Granite isn't only found in a volcano. You can find it here in Elberton, GA. Now you might think that there is a volcano in Georgia, but there is not. Granite can be found in the mountains in Georgia. There are mines in the mountains. So geologists (a person that studies rocks and minerals) are finding granite in Elberton, Georgia. Mr. Porc Mathis came to my class and showed me a piece of granite.

Physical Attributes

Granite can be gray if it has a lot of minerals and light if few minerals. Greenish, pink, and blue specs mean different types of feldspar. Quartz is the

shiny specs in granite. Granite is a very hard stone, but like other rocks it may fall apart and crumble.

Mr. Mathis showed us the Moh's hardness scale. The scale is used to go from the softest mineral to the hardest mineral. Whichever mineral is in your rock then that is where your rock would be. My rock is between 7 and 8. It is hard.

Uses of it

Granite is so hard that you could use it to make curbstones and sheets of layers to cover buildings and walls. Granite can be made as sculptures, too. Granite gets made as sculptures and then polished. Large mountain areas are formed by granite. I looked in

a book and found out that Mount Rushmore is actually granite. They just started carving the faces of Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, George Washington, and Abraham Lincoln. So I know that their heads are hard, but they can still get weathered.

How granite gets changed
If granite is under water too long it changes to kaolin. Kaolin is in McDuffie County. They have kaolin mines. A friend in my class, Abigail, her daddy works in those mines. She brought a piece of kaolin to school the other day. She said it was so soft you could use it for chalk and even used it.

My family is going to go on a vacation and I'm going to see if we can go to see those presidents of granite.

Amethyst

Are you interested in amethyst? I am. Amethyst is a type of quartz. Amethyst was found all over the world even in Georgia. Amethyst is a multicolored gemstone. The hardness of this gemstone is 7.

Back in the old days they thought it can stop you from getting drunk.

Amethyst

Amethyst is found in Brazil and Uruguay in South America. It can be found in many other places too like North Carolina, Georgia. Most of the really pretty Amethyst is not found in the U.S.

The color of an Amethyst is purple. Amethyst can make jewelry. The Amethyst's hardness is 7. An Amethyst is really fascinating. Purple variety of quartz often used like an ornament.

Amethyst can make jewelry like rings, necklaces. A Amethyst is a birthstone of February. Amethyst was used in jewelry by the ancient Egyptians kings and queens around the world. The purple color was the color of royalty.

Granite

Informational Practice Paper 5

Has your dad ever told you that your head is hard as a rock? Mine has. Well George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln's heads really are hard as a rock. Actually, they're carved from granite in Mount Rushmore. Read on to find out about granite.

How was it formed

Granite is made of tiny crystals that you can see. Did you know that granite has minerals in it. Granite is an igneous rock that comes from a volcano. Geologists have found granite in the north central area and northeastern parts of Georgia. A geologist is a person who studies rocks. Did you know that one of the most valuable minerals in Georgia is granite. Feldspar, quartz and mica all make up granite and it is found in Elberton, Georgia.

Physical Attributes

Granite is light colored and speckled because it has rocks in it. When quartz, feldspar and mica are pushed to gether they form granite.

A german geologist named Fredrich Mohs invented the Moh's hardness scale for rocks. The scale shows the softest (talc) to the hardest (diamond). Granite's hardness is between 7 and 8. That means it can scratch anything from 1 to 6.

Uses

Granite is used in many ways because its so strong. It is used for memorials tombstones, buildings and bridges.

How Can Granite be changed

If granite is under water too long it changes to Kaolin. Kaolin is a type of clay. My friends dad works in a Kaolin mine in McDuffie county. Kaolin mines have been there for thousands of years because it takes a long time for granite to change to clay.

Kaolin is very soft but granite is very hard.

If you ever go to Mount Rushmore remember
you're looking at granite. And on your way back
stop at the kaolin mines in McDuffie County
and see what granite turns into.

Kaolin is an interesting mineral. Kaolin is found in N.C., S.C., P.N., F.L., and G.A. It's a tough, white mineral. It also looks like clay. It's uses are, mining, tiles, and walls. It also looks like a snowball. It's colors are greenish-yellowish, and can be colorless. Kaolin is a weird, but interesting mineral.

Marble

By

Do you know what the Lincoln Memorial is made of? It is Marble. Read on to find more facts about Marble.

How was it formed?

Marble changes to Metamorphic rock under ground. It is Marble that changes into limestone when the temp. real hot. Marble is found in the northern part of Georgia. Most of it is found in Pickens County Georgia. They use Marble for different things.

What are the physical attributes?

Size: Wide Shape: rectangular Color: It's mostly red, black or white texture: soft Hardness: rough

How can Marble change? What happens to it?

It changes by high temp
when it is in the ground.

How is Marble used

It is used for floors, desks
and ceiling, statues and famous
famous building.

Every time I look at the
ceiling I think of Marble.

Limestone

By

Informational Practice Paper 8

What do you think about when you hear the words bury, bones, and skeletons? I will give you a hint. It's not Halloween. It is Limestone. Read on to find out more about Limestone.

Where is it found?

One day I was reading a book called, Rocks and Minerals. And I found some information about where it was found. And it said Limestone was found in Mountains and it said that Limestone is found in valleys, too. And in another book, I found that sometimes Limestone is found in the ocean. Geologists have found Limestone in valleys of the Coastal Plain of Georgia.

Geologists study about rocks. About a week ago, a geologist came to my class and taught us

about rocks. He said that it was mostly made of shell and coral/skeleton and vegetable matter that has been pressed together. He showed us a Limestone rock and showed us what it looks like. We could see the shells in the Limestone. Now I know what Limestone looks like.

Physical Attributes

Mr. Mathis told us the color of Limestone. He said that Limestone can be white, gray, buff and sometimes it can even be black. It can be from 2 feet to 100 feet in size and it is found in oceans environments. Mr. Mathis showed us the Moh's hardness scale. The scale shows ten minerals on a scale of one to ten. Limestone is between three and five on the Moh's scale. We used the scratch test to see which mineral is the hardest and the softest. Limestone can scratch Gypsum and Talc because it's harder

p.3
then these minerals.

How does rocks change?

When Limestone is hot it changes to marble.

How do we use Limestone

We use Limestone to build roads for cars to drive on. And we use Limestone to build statue. Sometimes we use Limestone to build houses.

For example, back in the old days cave men lived in caves and the caves were mostly made of Limestone.

My family loves camping. Next time I go camping I will ask Dad if we can go to the mountains. Maybe I can find some Limestone when I go walking in the mountains.

Did you know that Locton
is that you can fund quartz
yes that what it means that
you can fund quartz but
there's one thing that you
post now that you over fund
some only some time the of
like 10 or 2 or 20 that way
you post now that,

Did you know Amethyst is
a purple variety of
quartz? It is
used for jewelry. In Greek
it means (not drunken.)

It's... birthstone
is February. Its color is
Unparalleled. Amethyst also
looks like grass. My rock
Also weighs 2.6. You
might not be able to
find Amethyst in Georgia.

Did you also know that

Amethyst Anniversary is
the 4th and 6th year of

marriage? Its shape

is trigonal. ~~Amethyst~~ It is

also used for candle holders!

Its lustre is vitreous.

The hardness is 7. The thickness

is 2.6. It is also

made of silicon. Hope you

had fun with Amethyst!

Answer Key for Informational Practice Papers

Paper #	Ideas	Org.	Style	Conv.
1	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets
2	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds
3	Does Not Meet	Does Not Meet	Meets	Meets
4	Meets	Does Not Meet	Does Not Meet	Does Not Meet
5	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds
6	Meets	Does Not Meet	Does Not Meet	Meets
7	Meets	Meets	Meets	Meets
8	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds	Exceeds
9	Does Not Meet	Does Not Meet	Does Not Meet	Does Not Meet
10	Meets	Does Not Meet	Meets	Meets

Informational Writing Lessons

Lesson 1: Ice Cube Melting Race

GPS

- S3P1 - Investigate how heat is produced and the effects of heating and cooling
- ELA 3W1

Focus of the Lesson

- Suggested Time for the Lesson: approximately 3 days
- The student will produce a description of the process he followed to melt ice.

Suggested Materials

- dry erase board
- chart paper and chart stand
- writing tools: pens, pencils, colored pencils, highlighters, varied sizes and colors of paper
- overhead projector
- other materials: ice, containers, heat sources (sun, heating vent, breath, light bulb)

Suggested Procedure for Lesson 1

1. The teacher will set the purpose for the activity by brainstorming with students how heat can be produced in different ways. The teacher will chart student responses and students will record responses in their science journal.
2. Students will form groups and the teacher will explain:
 - We will be having an ice cube melting race.
 - The class will compile a set of rules for how the winner will be determined. The teacher will make a chart listing the rules.
 - Each group will formulate a written plan for melting their ice cubes and each student will record that plan in their journals.
 - Students will conduct the race. Students will record data in their journals and graph results. The teacher could furnish a blank graph for students to record the information.
 - Each individual will write a description of their group's performance in the race including specific details using the notes from their journals.
 - Revision and editing can occur in another session.
 - A final draft will be produced.

Extended Activity

- Similarity/Difference (Compare/Contrast) ELA 3W1 d:
 - Students can share data from their experiment and write a compare/contrast paragraph.
- Chronological Order (Sequence) ELA 3W1 d:
 - Students will list the steps they followed in the ice cube race.
- Cause/Effect ELA W1 d:
 - The teacher would pose the questions:
 - What happened in the experiment (effect)?
 - Why did it happen? (cause)

Lesson 2: You are the expert!

GPS

- ELA8W2: The student demonstrates competence in a piece of writing drawn from research.

Focus of lesson

- The student will write a research paper with presentation materials.

Suggested materials

- Depending on the topic may include:
 - Brochures, books, interview, articles, internet

Suggested Procedures for Lesson 2

Introducing the lesson

- We are all expert in something that we can do or something that we know about. Such as, if you are a diabetic or have a family member who is diabetic, you may have a great deal of knowledge that a non-diabetic person might have. You may be an expert at skateboarding, or playing an instrument. You may have traveled to different places and are an expert on a particular place. You may be an expert on another culture. Perhaps you are someone in your family recently moved to your area. You may have a new baby in your family or even a new pet.
- Think of something that you are an expert at or can become an expert at.
- Use a KWL chart to identify your expertise and what you want to learn.
- Provide the students with various formats for research.

During the lesson

- Look at the information gathered from the KWL and decide on your research questions. Model a note taking procedure. Locate materials to answer the question and record the information.
- Refer to the Standard elements a-I in assisting students in writing their research paper with presentation materials.