

**Seven-Point, Two-Trait Rubric**

**Trait 2 for Informational/Explanatory Genre**

| Writing Trait   | Points | Criteria  |
|---|--------|---|
| <p><b>Language Usage and Conventions</b><br/> <i>This trait examines the writer's ability to demonstrate control of sentence formation, usage, and mechanics as embodied in the grade-level expectations of the language standards.</i></p> | 3      | <p><i>The student's response demonstrates full command of language usage and conventions.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effectively varies sentence patterns for meaning, reader/listener interest, and style</li> <li>• Shows command of language and conventions when writing</li> <li>• Any errors in usage and conventions do not interfere with meaning*</li> </ul>                   |
|   | 2      | <p><i>The student's response demonstrates partial command of language usage and conventions.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Varies some sentence patterns for meaning, reader/listener interest, and style</li> <li>• Shows some knowledge of languages and conventions when writing</li> <li>• Has minor errors in usage and conventions with no significant effect on meaning*</li> </ul> |
|   | 1      | <p><i>The student's response demonstrates weak command of language usage and conventions.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has fragments, run-ons, and/or other sentence structure errors</li> <li>• Shows little knowledge of languages and conventions when writing</li> <li>• Has frequent errors in usage and conventions that interfere with meaning*</li> </ul>                         |
|   | 0      | <p><i>The student's response is flawed for various reasons and will receive a condition code:</i><br/>                     The condition codes can be found on page 79 of this guide.</p>   |

\*Students are responsible for language conventions learned in their current grade as well as in prior grades. Refer to the language skills for each grade to determine the grade-level expectations for grammar, syntax, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling. Also refer to the "Language Progressive Skills, by Grade" chart in Appendix A for those standards that need continued attention beyond the grade in which they were introduced.