Explanatory Assessment Rubric

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| Name: |  | Date: |  |

Use the following checklist to evaluate your work or that of a classmate for the traits of effective writing.

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|  | **Stimulating IDEAS** |
|  | ***The essay . . .**** contains an effective thesis statement.
* contains specific facts, examples, or quotations to support the thesis.
* interests and informs readers.
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|  | **Logical ORGANIZATION** |
|  | ***The essay . . .**** includes a clear beginning, a strong middle, and an appropriate ending.
* presents ideas in an organized manner.
* uses transitions to link sentences and paragraphs.
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|  | **Engaging VOICE** |
|  | ***The essay . . .**** speaks clearly and knowledgeably.
* shows that the writer is truly interested in the topic.
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|  | **Original WORD CHOICE** |
|  | ***The essay . . .**** explains or defines any unfamiliar terms.
* contains specific nouns and active verbs.
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|  | **Effective SENTENCE STYLE** |
|  | ***The essay . . .**** flows smoothly from one idea to the next.
* shows a variety of sentence lengths and structures.
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|  | **Correct, Accurate COPY** |
|  | ***The essay . . .**** observes the basic rules of writing.
* follows the format required by the teacher, or follows some other effective design.
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