Student Informational Writing Guide for IDEAS

6

* I have a clear vision of what I want to say to the reader.
* I know this topic like an insider and it shows.
* I give my reader clear, accurate, insightful information.
* I pulled information from several sources and wove it all together to make my own meaning.
* Strong support makes everything I say convincing.

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* My thesis or key question is clear.
* I answer some important questions.
* I give the reader useful information.
* I pulled information from more than one source.
* Good evidence makes my main points believable.

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* You can tell what my thesis is, even if I don’t state it.
* I answer one or two key questions.
* I give my reader a good overview of this topic.
* I did some research, but also relied on what I knew.
* I have some support—I’m not sure if it’s enough.

3

* I think you can figure out my thesis or main point.
* I don’t know enough to feel comfortable with this topic.
* Most of what I say is common knowledge.
* I didn’t do a lot of research—I relied on things I had heard.
* My support is sketchy—it could leave you skeptical!

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* My thesis is still coming together.
* There are BIG gaps in what I know about this topic.
* Some things I made up—or I took my best guess!
* I did little or no research. I just wrote.
* My evidence will only convince you if you already agree with me.

1

* I don’t have a thesis or main point.
* I don’t really know anything about this topic—yet.
* Without information, it was hard to write!
* I wasn’t sure how to do research.
* My writing is detail-free.