**Informative/Explanatory Writing**

**Prompt**: You have been reading nonfiction accounts of the lives and experiences of real people who have undertaken a mission to pursue their goals. You have also been reading fictional stories of adventure--and of characters who have also undertaken missions, often while facing great personal risk. Now you will think about the experiences of these people and characters as you write your own informative/explanatory essay.

**Task**: Write an informative/explanatory essay that answers the question: What motivates us to undertake a mission?

Your essay should include:

* an introduction with a clear thesis statement, or central idea
* body paragraphs with relevant supporting details and a thorough analysis to support your thesis statement
* a conclusion that restates your thesis and summarizes your information

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| Focus and Motivation | Evidence and Elaboration | Conventions |
| 4 | -The introduction engages the reader and states a thesis in a compelling way.-The informative essay includes a clear introduction, body, and conclusion. The conclusion summarizes ideas and offers fresh insight into the thesis. | -The essay includes specific reasons, details, facts, and quotations from selections and outside resources to support thesis. -The tone of the essay is always formal and objective. -The language is always precise and appropriate for the audience and purpose. | -Transition words are used with accuracy to create cohesion-The essay uses standard English conventions of grammar, usage, mechanics, and spelling (GUMS) |
| 3 | -The introduction engages the reader and sets forth the thesis. -The essay includes an introduction, body, and conclusion. -The conclusion summarizes ideas and supports the thesis. | -The research includes some specific reasons, details, facts, and quotations from selections and outside resources to support the thesis. -The tone of the research is mostly formal and objective. -The language is generally precise and appropriate for the audience and purpose. | -Transition words are used with general accuracy to create cohesion-The essay demonstrates general accuracy in standard English conventions of GUMS |
| 2 | -The introduction sets forth the thesis. -The essay includes an introduction, body, and conclusion, but one or more parts is weak. -The conclusion partially summarizes ideas but may not provide strong support of the thesis. | -The research includes a few reasons, details, facts, and quotations from selections and outside resources to support the thesis. -The tone of the research is occasionally formal and objective. -The language is somewhat precise and appropriate for the audience and purpose. | --Transition words are used with some accuracy to create cohesion-The presentations demonstrates some accuracy in standard English conventions of GUMS |
| 1 | -The introduction does not state the thesis clearly.-The essay does not include an introduction, body, and conclusion. -The conclusion does not summarize ideas and may not relate to the thesis. | -Reliable and relevant evidence is not included. -The tone of the essay is not objective or formal. -The language used is imprecise and not appropriate for the audience and purpose | -Transition words are not used or there are mistakes with transition words-The essay contains mistakes in standard English conventions GUMS.  |