

Summary of Informative Text Rubric

Genre Chart Summary: Informative	3 Accomplished Goal	2 Just Beginning	1 Hasn't Started
1 Includes a topic sentence that captures the central idea	Topic sentence captures the central idea of the text	Topic sentence includes the subject in a general way	No topic sentence
2 States the title and author	Clearly states the title and author with correct formatting	Includes the title or the author	Forgot to include the title and author
3 Includes only the main ideas	Includes only the main ideas	Includes some main ideas from some parts of the text	Includes a main idea from one part of the text
4 Paraphrases information using academic language	Restates information in your own words using similar academic language	Most of the summary is in your own words using some academic language	Copied from text
5 Follows same organizational structure as author	Information is presented in the same order as the author	Most of the information is presented in the same order	Information is not organized
6 Uses transition words	Transitions link together sentences/paragraphs	A few transitions are used to link together sentences/paragraphs	Missing transitions
7 Includes a concluding sentence	Sentence restates the main idea	Has a concluding sentence, but does not restate the main idea	No concluding sentence
8 Correct conventions support meaning	Minor or no errors in spelling, punctuation, and grammar	A few errors pop out but do not interfere with the summary	Frequent errors distract the reader

Text Structure

Directions: Read each passage. Identify the organizational structure. Explain how you know it is that structure. Possible structures include: Problem/Solution, Cause/Effect, Compare/Contrast.

1. The surface of the earth is divided into pieces called “tectonic plates.” These plates move and rub against each other, sometimes not moving smoothly. When the plates do not move smoothly, earthquakes result. Some parts of the world get more earthquakes than other parts. The parts of the earth that get the most earthquakes are near the edges of these plates.

Organizational Structure _____

2. Some countries, such as Japan, or parts of a country, like California in the United States, have a lot of earthquakes. In these places, it is a good practice to build houses and other buildings so they will not collapse when there is an earthquake. This is called seismic design or “earthquake-proofing.”

Organizational Structure _____

3. A hurricane is a large storm with heavy winds and rain that begins in the ocean and builds up strength as it moves across the water. While some of the damage caused by hurricanes is from high winds, most of it is usually from tidal surges, flooding entire cities, and killing large numbers of people. A tornado is a storm that develops on land, with no warning, and moves in a circular motion with heavy winds with a funnel shape, picking up and carrying dirt, dust, and even objects. The damage caused by tornadoes is from the high winds, which are extremely dangerous and deadly. They can demolish entire neighborhoods in a matter of a few seconds to a few minutes. Tornadoes can form when hurricanes make landfall, as their winds at ground level slow down, while the winds near the top keep their momentum, but a hurricane cannot be created by a tornado.

Organizational Structure _____

Adapted from Don Mortini: www.ereadingworksheets.com

Notes:

The Goldenrod Gall Fly

by Emily Kissner

Have you ever heard of an insect that can survive being frozen? If you have, you likely know about the goldenrod gall fly. The goldenrod gall fly is a creature with an amazing life cycle.

Goldenrod is a type of yellow flower that grows all over North America. The goldenrod gall fly uses the goldenrod plant to make a home for its

young. In the summer, the mother gall fly lays her eggs in goldenrod stems. As the goldenrod grows, the eggs hatch. Each newborn gall fly lives alone on a different stem.



The young gall flies have special saliva. A chemical in their saliva makes the goldenrod plant grow a round ball in its stem. This ball is called a gall. The young gall flies live in the gall keeping them safe from enemies. They eat the goldenrod stem for food.

Right before the air gets cold in autumn, the larva chews a tunnel in the gall. But it doesn't leave. Instead, the larva stays in the goldenrod gall all winter long. Most creatures would die if they were frozen solid. But the goldenrod gall fly larva survives because of a special substance in its blood. This substance keeps the deep cells in its body from freezing.

In the spring, temperatures become warmer. The goldenrod gall fly turns into a pupa. After about two weeks, it transforms into an adult. It leaves the gall through the tunnel that it chewed the previous fall. And it's a good thing that the gall fly larva made that tunnel earlier. Because adult gall flies do not eat, they don't have the mouth parts they would need to chew through the gall.

Adult gall flies stay near goldenrod plants because they cannot fly very well. They only live long enough to mate and lay

Notes:

eggs. But each generation of goldenrod gall flies makes its home in goldenrod stems. Year after year, these tiny insects survive through the winter to finish a remarkable life cycle.

Different Boats for Different Jobs

by Emily Kissner

What kind of boat would you use to travel a long distance? Enjoy a vacation? Or carry goods across the ocean? People have made many different kinds of boats. Each kind of boat has a different design and a different purpose.

Barges are large, flat boats. Barges carry goods along a river. People have been using barges for thousands of years. In fact, there is an ancient Egyptian hieroglyph that stands for the word “barge”. Today, barges are still used on rivers and canals around the world. Many barges do not have their own power. Small, powerful tugboats push or pull barges.



A barge is a large, flat boat.

Notes:

Like barges, cargo ships transport goods. But cargo ships are usually



Tall cranes make unloading a cargo ship much easier.

larger and taller than barges. Cargo ships need to be powerful. They can go across oceans and rough seas. Many cargo ships hold huge shipping containers. These containers are easy to load and unload with tall cranes.

Cruise ships are luxurious. Instead of carrying goods, cruise ships transport people. Cruise ships are filled with cabins, which are like small hotel rooms.

People take trips on cruise ships. They can stay on the cruise ship for several days or several



Cruise ships have restaurants, swimming pools, and cabins.

Notes:

weeks. The largest cruise ships can hold more than 6,000 people. They have restaurants, swimming pools, and stores.

As you can see, different boats are used for different purposes. Which kind of boat would you like to see?

*Summary: Informative
Lesson 2*

Sites to Summarize

Science:

<http://www.sciencenewsforkids.org/>

<http://www.popsci.com/category/tags/kids>

<http://accessexcellence.org/WN/SU/>

<http://www.nytimes.com/pages/science/index.html>

Social Studies:

<http://www.kidspast.com>

<http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com>

Current Events:

<http://www.dogonews.com/>

<http://teachkidsnews.com/>

www.nytimes.com

Main Idea

Directions: Read each passage. In one sentence, write down the main idea of the passage. In other words, what is this passage about?

1. Some people think that some holidays celebrating love are nothing but clever ploys by marketers to get consumers to buy candy, flowers, and stuffed animals. But who cares? In America, we celebrate two love-themed holidays: Valentine's Day and Sweetest Day. Valentine's Day is celebrated in the winter, while Sweetest Day is celebrated in the fall. Valentine's Day is more focused on bringing lovers together, while Sweetest Day is for all of the friends, relatives, and associates whose kindness we've enjoyed. Both occasions, however, are great times to remember what's most important: the people about whom we care.

2. A volcano is a mountain from where lava (very hot, molten rock) erupts. The lava comes from a magma chamber located in the ground, under the bedrock of the earth's crust. Lava travels through the conduit (pipe) that runs from the magma chamber to the top of the volcano. Most volcanoes have a crater at the top. Volcanoes are also found on planets other than Earth, like the Olympus Mons on Mars.

3. The fossil record can give us large amounts of knowledge, but there are many other ways that the fossil record is incomplete or misleading. For example, the brontosaurus is a type of dinosaur that never really existed. Many people still believe in the brontosaurus today, but the "brontosaurus" is actually the body of an Apatosaurus with the head of a camarasaurus. The brontosaurus was made up from these two mismatched fossils. That's why it is important to think critically about information that people tell you, even if it's information you find in a book or in a worksheet. Keep these problems in mind when studying fossil records to come to conclusions about dinosaurs and their lifestyles.

Adapted from Don Mortini: www.ereadingworksheets.com

Now read your article. Identify the main idea in each paragraph.

Transition Practice Paragraph

Going to the doctor's office is quite a process. You have to call and make an appointment. Go to the doctor's office. Try to find a parking spot. Check in with the receptionist. Sit in the waiting room. The nurse calls your name. Tell the nurse why you are visiting today. Sit in the office and wait for the doctor. See the doctor. The doctor tells you what is wrong with you. Pick out your favorite sticker! Go home.

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Revision: Summary of Informative Text

Name: _____

Date: _____

Peer Reviser 1: _____

Peer Reviser 2: _____

Rubric Score

Peer 1

Peer 2

Genre Chart

_____ **Includes a topic sentence** that captures the central idea

Suggestion for improvement: _____

_____ **States the title and author**

Suggestion for improvement: _____

_____ **Includes only the main ideas**

Suggestion for improvement: _____

_____ **Paraphrases information** using academic language

Suggestion for improvement: _____

_____ **Follows same organizational structure as the author**

Suggestion for improvement: _____

_____ **Uses transition words**

Suggestion for improvement: _____

_____ **Includes a concluding sentence**

Suggestion for improvement: _____

Editing Checklist

Name: _____

Date: _____

Peer Editor 1: _____

Peer Editor 2: _____

Peer 1

Peer 2

- _____ 1. Paper includes name, teacher’s name, class name, due date, and title
- _____ 2. Correct punctuation at the end of each sentence
- _____ 3. Correct capitalization (beginning of sentences and proper nouns)
- _____ 4. Correct spelling, including “No Excuse” words
- _____ 5. Paragraphs indented ½ inch
- _____ 6. Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, one-inch margins, double-spaced
- _____ 7. _____
(Grammar focus for the class)

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(Grammar focus for the class)

Summary of Informative Text Assessment

Summary: Informative

- Includes a topic sentence that captures the central idea
- States the title and author
- Includes only the main ideas
- Paraphrases information using academic language
- Follows same organizational structure as author
- Uses transition words
- Includes a concluding sentence

Write a summary that includes everything from the Genre Chart.

Notes:

The SR-71 Blackbird

by Emily Kissner

A Great Spy Plane

What makes a good spy airplane? A spy airplane needs to be able to fly fast. A spy airplane needs to be able to fly high.



Photo from NASA via Wikimedia Commons

The SR-71 was a great spy plane. It flew fast. The SR-71 could go from New York to London in less than 2 hours! The SR-71 also flew high. This special plane could go 80,000 feet above the earth.

The SR-71 was a plane for the United States Air Force. The Air Force had 32 of these special planes. They were also called "Blackbirds".

Spy Missions

The Blackbird went on many spy missions. The plane had special cameras that could see distant things in great detail. From 80,000 feet in the air, the cameras could take pictures of the lines on a parking lot.

After each mission, the Blackbird zoomed back to its base. Spies looked at the pictures to learn new information.

Notes:

The Need for Speed

The SR-71 was fast. It could fly more than 2,000 miles in one hour. This was very important. Sometimes, enemies shot missiles at the Blackbird, but no SR-71 planes were ever shot down. This is because the Blackbird was so fast!

The End of the SR-71

In 1989, the Air Force decided to stop using the Blackbird. Now, most of the Blackbirds are in museums or in storage.

One Blackbird took a special trip into history. The plane was flown from California to Virginia. This plane would go on display at the Steven Udvar-Hazy Center, an airplane museum. As this Blackbird made the trip, the plane set a new speed record. It went 2,242 miles per hour.

If you want to see this Blackbird, you can visit the Udvar-Hazy Center in Virginia. The SR-71, the fastest plane in the world, is on display. Now you can be the one to take pictures of this famous spy plane.



Photo from NASA via Wikimedia Commons