

Informational / Opinion Scoring Guidelines Grade 1

Topic Introduction (W.1.1 & W.1.2)

- Topic Sentence:
 - 2 pts = full topic sentence:
 - *Polar bears can do a lot.*
 - 1 pt = partial: didn't fully state topic or fully respond to prompt:
 - *Polar bears live.*
- If one specific detail or reason is included in first sentence (usually following 'because'), then not a topic sentence. A topic sentence overviews the big picture. By definition, it does not dive into a detail.
- If no period, but thought ends then take off points for conventions but still give topic sentence point.
- If opinion writing, opinion conveyed via topic sentence or reasons.

Important Details / Reasons (W.1.2 & W.1.2)

Information: Supply facts about the topic / Reason is clear, specific and (obviously) supports opinion:

- **Yes:** *Polar bears drink their mother's milk. / Polar bears get to play all day.*
- **No:** *Polar bears are fun to watch. / Polar bears are white. Or: Polar bears are nice.* (not specific)
- Each new main fact / reason usually presented in its own clear sentence (or group of sentences).
- When students have over three main ideas / reasons, score first 3 (or any random 3).
- If copied word for word and makes sense – give 1 pt. Must be explained in own words to get detail pts.

Details support fact / reason: Additional details about each idea/reason show clear and strong understanding.

- May be an additional sentence but not required:
 - *Polar bears drink their mother's milk because they are hungry.*

Ending (W.1.2 & W.1.2)

- Sense of closure wraps up ideas:
 - *These are facts about polar bears.*
 - *Polar bears live busy lives.*

Language

- Give one point for each rich vocabulary word used, including domain specific words used from text.

Conventions (L.1.1-L1.2)

- Links: Links ideas with: first, next or last. Or use cohesive devices to link: pronouns that refer back to key idea, key word repeated
- Handwriting: legible - easy to recognize, read.
- Punctuation: sentences and names capitalized. Periods at end of sentences.
- Spelling is phonetic. 75% of words used are spelled correctly (leeway for rich vocabulary). Word wall.
- Grammar: sentences follow noun + verb + prepositions + adj/adv + conjunctions (30%). Verb tense must be grammatically correct as well. At least one compound sentence uses a conjunction.