Student Samples: Grade 4

Informational Performance Task

Focus Standards
Grade 4: W.4.2b, d; W.4.4; W.4.5; W.4.8; W.4.9; L.4.3

4-Point Informational Performance Task Writing Rubric (Grades 3–5)

SCORE	4 POINTS	3 POINTS	2 POINTS	1 POINT	NS
EVIDENCE/ELABORATION	The response provides thorough elaboration of the support/ evidence for the controlling/main idea that includes the effective use of source material. The response clearly and effectively develops ideas, using precise language: • comprehensive evidence (facts and details) from the source material is integrated, relevant, and specific • clear citations or attribution to source material • effective use of a variety of elaborative techniques* • vocabulary is clearly appropriate for the audience and purpose • effective, appropriate style enhances content	The response provides adequate elaboration of the support/ evidence for the controlling/ main idea that includes the use of source material. The response adequately develops ideas, employing a mix of precise and more general language: • adequate evidence (facts and details) from the source material is integrated and relevant, yet may be general • adequate use of citations or attribution to source material • adequate use of some elaborative techniques* • vocabulary is generally appropriate for the audience and purpose • generally appropriate style is evident	The response provides uneven, cursory elaboration of the support/ evidence for the controlling/ main idea that includes uneven or limited use of source material. The response develops ideas unevenly, using simplistic language: • some evidence (facts and details) from the source material may be weakly integrated, imprecise, repetitive, vague, and/or copied • weak use of citations or attribution to source material • weak or uneven use of elaborative techniques*; development may consist primarily of source summary • vocabulary use is uneven or somewhat ineffective for the audience and purpose • inconsistent or weak attempt to create appropriate style	The response provides minimal elaboration of the support/ evidence for the controlling/ main idea that includes little or no use of source material. The response is vague, lacks clarity, or is confusing: • evidence (facts and details) from the source material is minimal, irrelevant, absent, incorrectly used, or predominantly copied • insufficient use of citations or attribution to source material • minimal, if any, use of elaborative techniques* • vocabulary is limited or ineffective for the audience and purpose • little or no evidence of appropriate style	• Insufficient (includes copied text) • In a language other than English • Off-topic • Off-purpose

*Elaborative techniques may include the use of personal experiences that support the controlling/main idea

Understanding Proficiency A Partnership of WestEd and SCALE

Sample A

Animal Habitats

Some animals have survived and lived in their own habitat for a long time. But the reason they can live there is because they have adapted. Some animals build and live in different places depending on how they have adapted to the climate and terrain. Take the wombat for example, The wombat has adapted by digging huge tunnels that can be 100 feet long. Forinstance, in my smarter balance packet in source #2 on page nine it quotes “wombats dig huge underground burrows that can be 100 feet long. Wombat tunnels are elaborate, with many entrances, side tunnels, and resting chambers. Inside the burrow, sleeping nests are built on raised “platforms” to keep them dry in case of flooding.”

Also, take an owl for another example. The owl has adapted by making nests in a cactus so it can have water. Forinstance, on page 5, source #1 it says “in the hot Sonoran Desert of Arizona, an owl lives in a nest that sits on a tall cactus. The cactus stems store water. Rain doesn’t fall often in the Sonoran Desert, but when it does, it falls quickly and heavily. The cactus has roots that spread out only inches below the surface of the soil. The roots are like a big sponge, soaking up rain water fast. Now the cactus can store water for months and the owl has a nice home high up in the cactus.” These animals are just two of the thousands upon thousands of animals that have amazingly adapted to their own biom. In conclusion, animals are wonderful, magnifacent creatures that have been able to adjust and adapt to their own unique environment that may be super cold, really hot, very dark, or very dry.

Sample B

Where Animals Live

Animals live in sevral different places that are unquie to their habitat. Some animals mak one home and some make sevral. Animals make sevral different kinds of homes to adapt to their habitats. Such as termites, termites build huge mounds to survive in. Something, that supports my evidence is. “Termites can build 20-foot-high mounds out of dirt and their own salvia. These giant structures are like small apartment buildings. Besides living areas, these towers have food storage areas, nurseries, a special chamber for the King an queen, and even a garden. (A chamber is like a room.)”

Another animal that is very interesting is a beaver, beaves build amazing dams and lodges. “Beavers build lodges along the banks of lakes and ponds. Using branches they chewed apart themselves, beavers begin by building a cone shaped frame. Then they fill in the gaps with mud and leaves. The entance to the lodge is always at the bottom, underwater, so beavers can come and go with out being seen by predators. In addition to their lodges, beavers build dams. Water biulds up behind the dams, creating flooded areas that are ideal places for beavers to find food. The flooded areas also provide pools for other wildlife. I got this evidance from source 1. “It’s a cold (Hot, Dry, Dark) Cruel World” and source #2 “Animal Architects.” All in all I think all animals and insects have incedibale homes that are unique and interesting.

Sample C

Every animal do diffrent things some animal save their food for the winter some animals eat much as they can before winter. Also, the ice fish have this substance in their blood and Penguins have bluber to keep them warm if that is not a nuff all of the Penguin cuddle to gether.

Sample D

Where Animals Live

Most animals have extraordanary, unique home that they spent time building in order to survive in their habitat. For example, in scource #2 it understandably and clearly states, “Humans live in a wide variety of strutures. Around the world, people have designed and built their homes to suit their particular needs and ways of life. Animals do the same.”

It also states, “Homes protect us from weather and keep us safe and comfortable. Animals are no exeption.” It also states, on paragraph #3 of page number 7,

“In addition to making living places, people and animals both build other strutures: bridges, traps, dams and storage areas. These structures help people and animals survive.” All in all most animals and people have extraordanary, unique home in order for them to survive their habitat.

Sample E

Where animals live

Animals live in many different places and homes that help them survive in their enviorments, do you know some of them? Many animals build unique homes to help them survive in their homes and enviorment. For example, “Wombats dig underground burrows that can be 100 feet long.” That is where a wombat lives, in a burrow. It’s perfect for the enviorment because it fits for the cold weather. I got this information on page #9, from Source 2, in our Smarter Balanced test, the article Animal Architects.

Another place where animals live is in mounds, “Termites buid 20-foot-high mounds out of dirt and their own saliva.” Like I said, a mound is also an animal house for termites. I got this from page #8 in the 3rd paragraph from source 2, in the Smarter Balanced test.

One other place where an animal lives is in a nest, for example, it clearly states in the text, “Bald eagles build massive nests, 4-5 feet across and 3-6 feet deep, high in tall trees.” I got this information on page #10 in paragraph 1. The nest fits the Bald eagle because, It’s a big nest for a big bird. All from source 2, in our Smarter Balanced test, the article Animal Architects.

Another example of where animals live is, “In addition to their lodges, beavers build dams. Water builds up behind the dams, creating flooded areas that are ideal places for beavers.” I got that from page #8 in paragraph 2. The dams are just right for the eviorment because it keeps the beavers away from predators, source 2 of our Smarter Balanced test, the artice Animal Architects. In conclusion when you’re outside look at all of the unique animal homes you see, whether it be a pond, dam, nest or mound, they are all unique to help the animals survive in their homes and enviorment they live in.

Sample F

In the sources I found for my science project, It's a Cold Cruel World, Animal Architects, and Don't Step in that Ecosystem, I learned how animals live in their environments.

To begin, animals build all kinds of structures to protect themselves from predators. For example, beavers build lodges or structures with the entrance under water. This allows them to "come and go without being seen by predators." (Source 2) It's important for beavers to be able to come and go without being seen by predators because they might eat them if they can see them. Lodges keep beavers safe. If you had predators after you, wouldn't you want to have a lodge to keep you safe also?

Climates affect animals and where they live as well. Ice fish live in extremely cold environments. In order to survive, ice fish keep ice crystals from forming with a special substance in their blood. (Source 1) Penguins also live in the cold. They stay warm from a thick layer of fat. (Source 1). I can relate to the ice fish and the penguin because I live in the mountains where it snows. To keep from freezing I have to put on extra layers of clothes.

Furthermore, plants provide places for animals to live, too. For example, the oak tree provides a home for to bugs and birds. It also gives a home to squirrels and their nests. The acorns from oak trees feed other animals, too. Like mice and deer. This is important because "plants and animals work together in an ecosystem to survive." (Source 3). Coral reefs provide a home to one quarter to the fish in the sea. Just like the oak tree and the reef I depend on plants for food and for shelter.

To sum up, animals live in many interesting places. Their homes protect them from enemies and harsh climates. Many animals depend on plants for homes, as well.

Sample G

Where Animals Live

Many amazing animals live in very different climates they have adapted to.

If you can go out into the woods, look around you, you will see many animals different masterpeices made by natures animal architects. for example on page eight of source two in my smarter balanced packet, it says “Termites build twent-foot-high mounds out of dirt and their own saliva. These giant structures are like small apartmet buildings, besides living areas, these towers have food storage areas, nurseries for “baby” termites, a special chamber for the King and Queen, and even gardens.” I don’t know about how, but I think how small those termites are and how big their structures are.

Other animals have adapted in different ways. “Each enviornment creates different challengs for animals to live there. Some living creatures survive at the bottom of the sea where it is as dark as knight and very cold. Other plants and animals live in dry, hot enviornments. People can use tools like flashlights or fans to help them survive. Animals and plants however must rely on nature to help them survive.” I found this information on page 3-4 of my smart balanced packet of article 1 The different places where animals live make it easy or hard to survive. All and all if you do go out into the woods and see a burrow or a nest, please do not pick them up or look in side them because that is some amazing animals house so please respect them.

Sample H

Living creatures survive in all types of environments such as the sea, the forest and more. Im going to tell you a little more about the other environments and animals.

First, penguins have thick layers of skin called blubber. Penguins use their blubber to cuddle and share warm body temperatures.

The desert effects how animals live. Due to the little bit of rain animals cant drink water. On the optimistic side plants have roots that expand to get water underground.

Did you know termites build 20 feet mounds of dirt and saliva.

Clearly living creatures survive in diffrent environment.