Grade Level	Content Area	Course Title (for 9-12 Samples Only)	Unit Title
6th Grade	Language Arts		Ancient Civilizations

Length of Unit	Time of Year Taught	Expected Prior Knowledge
1 Week	4th Quarter	The students can construct a paragraph that contains a topic sentence supporting details and a concluding sentence. They can also combine paragraphs into a multi-paragraph essay that contains an introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion. Prior to this lesson they have studied ancient civilizations according to the Social Studies Standards.

Unit Description

In this unit, the students will select the three most important aspects of a previously studied civilization and develop a thesis statement as a focus for conveying this information in a multi-paragraph essay. The three important aspects of the civilization will become the three main body paragraphs. The paper will contain a thesis statement, strong conclusion, and accurate supporting details. The finished papers will be published on our 6th grade website.

Common Core Standard	**W.6.2**. Write informative/ explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content. a. Introduce a topic; organize ideas, concepts, and information, using strategies such as definition, classification, comparison/contrast, and cause/effect; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., charts, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension. b. Develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples. c. Use appropriate transitions to clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts. d. Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic. e. Establish and maintain a formal style. f. Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from the information or explanation presented.
Summative Assessment	The students will demonstrate synthesis of informative/explanatory text by writing a multi-paragraph essay about one ancient civilization studied this school year.
Scoring for Summative Assessment	Students will be assessed on the summative task using a 6-point scoring guide/rubric. A score of 80% will show mastery
Materials/ Resources Needed	Computers, an assortment of Ancient Civilization Books, 6th Grade website, paper, Graphic Organizers, Scoring Rubric, Summative Assessment assignment sheet.

	Lesson 1	Lesson 2	Lesson 3	Lesson 4	Lesson 5
Instruction and Timeline	Brainstorming: The instructor will pose a brainstorming question to the students: “What ancient civilization that we studied this year interested you the most? Why?” The students	Rough Draft: The teacher will provide paper to the students and guide them in writing their rough drafts.	Editing: The teacher will place a sample paper under the document camera. He/she will model what it means to edit. The	Final Draft/Self-Assessment: After completing the self-editing process, the students will begin typing their essay in	Publishing: The teacher will project the 6th grade website using the projector and do a lesson on uploading

	will be instructed to think about this question for one minute. They will then pair up and share their answer with a partner. After given ample time, the teacher will call on some students to share their thoughts. After this time, the teacher will explain the paper the students will be writing and pass out the summative assessment assignment sheet. They will select a previously studied civilization and be responsible for writing a multi-paragraph essay. Each student will be given a graphic organizer to begin the brainstorming process. The teacher gives them time to research various books and online sources to gather information to support the 3 main aspects/ contributions of the selected civilizations (based on the opinion of the student). The teacher will monitor the class and offer support to students as they fill out the graphic organizer.		teacher will demonstrate how to effectively use the rubric to guide the editing process and how to convey the changes that are needed. The students will be told the expectations of the self-editing.	Word. The instructor will explain the formatting desired and give the students support as they finish their final copy. After completing the final copy, the students will be directed to self-assess their paper. The instructor will explain that he/she wants the students to write a justification for the grade they gave themselves.	files. The students will be expected to upload and post their completed essay on the class website. Once everyone is finished, the teacher will direct the students to read their papers to their fellow classmates.

	Lesson 1	Lesson 2	Lesson 3	Lesson 4	Lesson 5
Student Activities and Timeline	The students will think of an answer to the question, “What ancient civilization that we studied this year interested you the most? Why?” They will then share their responses with a partner. After listening to the explanation of the assignment, the students will	The students will use their graphic organizer to record their ideas before beginning their rough draft.	During the demonstrations, students will jot down notes and discuss with partners the expectations shown by their teacher. Then students will self-edit their paper.	Students will type their final document as a Word document. They will then complete a self-assessment of their essay using their rubric. They will score themselves and write a	After the papers are published on the website, the students will read their paper to their classmates.

	select a civilization and begin filling out the graphic organizer used to brainstorm for the essay. They will use various sources to gather information to prepare their paper.		.	justification on why they scored themselves the way they did.	

Summative Assessment Assignment Sheet: Ancient Civilizations

Student Name_____

Date_____

Assignment:

Select an ancient civilization studied this school year

_____

Research important facts/contributions of this civilization.

Brainstorm/pre-write using a graphic organizer to record the 3 most important aspects of the ancient civilization.

Write a strong thesis statement that states the main aspects of the civilization that will be explained in your supporting paragraphs.

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Write a rough draft. Self-edit.

Type your final copy in Word.

Attach the self-assessment you completed on your essay.

Upload your paper to the 6th grade website.

Student Name: _____

Scoring Guide/Rubric for 6th Grade Informative/Explanatory Writing

Outcome: (**Standard 6.W.2)** The student will demonstrate synthesis of informative/explanatory texts by writing a multi-paragraph essay about an ancient civilization.

Writing Trait	Criteria	Score			
		F 1-2	**A 3**	**M 4**	**E 5-6**
Ideas & Content	1. The topic is clearly introduced				
	2. The topic is developed using relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples related to the topic.				
	3. The essay conveys ideas, concepts and information relevant to the topic.				
Organization	4. There is a recognizable, developed introduction of the topic.				
	5. Information is clarified through strategic use of definition, examples, comparison, cause/effect, or classification.				
	6. Essay is formatted for easy reading and understanding by using a heading/title, graphics, and (optional) multi-media.				
	7. There is a recognizable concluding statement or paragraph that makes sense for the information provided about the topic.				
Voice	8. Establishes and maintains a formal style.				
Word Choice	9. The writer uses precise language and domain specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.				
Sentence Fluency	10. The writer uses appropriate transitions to clarify the relationships among the ideas and concepts.				
Conventions	11. Punctuation and Capitalization are used correctly.				

FINAL SCORE: _____/6_____

A score of 6 = 100%
A score of 5.0-5.9 = 90-98%
A score of 4.0-4.9 = 80=89%
A score of 3.0-3.9 = 70-79%
A score of 2.0-2.9 = 60-69%

(Calculating the Score: Total the score and divide that total by the number of criterion items listed on the Scoring Guide. This number over 6 equals the score for the paper. It can be no higher than 6/6. 80% is mastery)