Comparison of LDC Argumentation and LDC Explanatory/Informational Rubrics

SCORING ELEMENT	ARGUMENTATION ("MEETS")	EXPLANATORY/ INFORMATIONAL ("MEETS")	COMPARISON
Focus	Addresses prompt appropriately and maintains a clear, steady focus. **Provides a generally convincing position.**	Addresses prompt appropriately and maintains a clear, steady focus.	Explanatory essay does not need to take a position on an issue/topic.
Controlling Idea	Establishes a **credible claim. (L2) Develops claim and counterclaims fairly.**	Establishes a **controlling idea** with a clear purpose maintained throughout the response.	Controlling idea is similar to the claim. No counterclaim is given in Explanatory essay.
Reading/Research	Accurately presents details from reading materials relevant to the purpose of the prompt to **develop argument or claim**.	Presents information from reading materials relevant to the prompt with accuracy and sufficient detail. **(L2) Addresses the credibility of sources when prompted.**	Wording is different but concept is the same (accurate, detailed, relevant information from sources). (L2) Addresses credibility of sources.
Development	Presents appropriate and sufficient details to support and develop the focus, controlling idea, or claim. **(L3) Makes a relevant connection to clarify argument or claim.**	Presents appropriate and sufficient details to support the focus and controlling idea. **(L2) Explains relevant and plausible implications, and (L3) a relevant gap/unanswered question.**	Extensions: implications in Explanatory essay are similar to connection in Argumentation; no relevant gaps or unanswered questions need to be identified in Argumentation.
Organization	Maintains an appropriate organizational structure to address specific requirements of the prompt. **Structure reveals the reasoning and logic of the argument.**	Maintains an appropriate organizational structure to address the specific requirements of the prompt.	Explanatory essay does not make an argument, but structure should support controlling idea and address the prompt.
Conventions	Demonstrates a command of standard English conventions and cohesion, with few errors. Response includes language and tone appropriate to the audience, purpose, and specific requirements of the prompt. Cites sources using an appropriate format with only minor errors.	Demonstrates a command of standard English conventions and cohesion, with few errors. Response includes language and tone appropriate to the audience, purpose, and specific requirements of the prompt. Cites sources using an appropriate format with only minor errors.	Identical
Content Understanding	Accurately presents disciplinary content relevant to the prompt with sufficient explanations that demonstrate understanding.	Accurately presents disciplinary content relevant to the prompt with sufficient explanations that demonstrate understanding.	Identical