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Oregon English Language Arts Assessment

ELA CAT Scoring Guide Grade 8 Sample Test

8/15/2018



About the Sample Test Scoring Guides

The Oregon ELA Sample Test Scoring Guides provide details about the items, student response types, correct responses, and related scoring considerations for the Oregon Sample Test items. The items selected for the Sample Test are designed to reflect

- a broad coverage of claims and targets.
- a range of student response types.
- a breadth of difficulty levels across the items.

It is important to note that all student response types are not fully represented on every sample test, but a distribution can be observed across all the sample tests. The items presented are reflective of refinements and adjustments to language based on pilot test results and expert recommendations from both content and accessibility perspectives.

Within this guide, each item is presented with the following information¹:

- Claim: statement derived from evidence about college and career readiness
- Target: statement that bridges the content standards and the assessment evidence that support the claim
- Depth of Knowledge (DOK): measure of complexity considering the student's cognitive process in response to an item. There are four DOK levels, a 4 being the highest level.
- Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts/Literacy: the primary standard(s) assessed by an item
- Percent Receiving (Number) Point(s): percent of students that received the point(s) indicated following the scoring of student responses
- Evidence Statement: a statement that explains what a student will be able to do in response to an item in order to provide evidence he or she has met the standard(s). These statements serve as a guide for item writers to ensure alignment to the CCSS standard(s) and targets.
- Static presentation of the item: static presentation of item from test administration system
- Static presentation of student response field(s): static presentation of response field from test administration system
- Answer key: expected student response or example response from score point value
- Rubric and a sample student response for each score point for short answer items: score point representations for student responses

The following items are representative of the kinds of items that students can expect to experience when taking the Computer Adaptive Test (CAT) portion of the summative assessment for grade 8. A separate document is available that provides a sample performance task and scoring guide for this grade level.

¹ Most of these terms (Claim, Target, DOK, Evidence Statement, etc.) are further explained in various other documents as well as the *Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy*. Refer to the *Content Standards and Item Specifications for English Language Arts and Literacy* for more information.

Read the text and answer questions 1–7.

Antoine of Oregon

A Story of the Oregon Trail
by James Otis

Susan rode with me, as she had from the beginning of the journey. Nothing of note happened to us, unless I should set down that this day was stormy, and on that day the sun shone, until we came into the valley of the North Fork of the Platte, through a pass which is known as Ash Hollow.

There we drove down a dry ravine on our winding way to the river bottoms, stopping now and then to gather a store of wild currants and gooseberries which grew in abundance.

Near the mouth of the ravine we came upon a small log cabin, which had evidently been built by trappers, but the emigrants on their way into the Oregon country had converted it into a post office, by sticking here and there, in the crevices of the logs, letters to be forwarded to their friends in the States. Hung on the wall where all might see it, was a general notice requesting any who passed on their way to the Missouri River to take these missives, and deposit them in the nearest regular post office.

The little cabin had an odd appearance, and Susan confessed that, almost for the first time since leaving Independence, she was growing homesick, solely because of seeing this post office.

After crossing the stream we came upon a party of emigrants from Ohio, having only four wagons drawn by ten yoke of oxen, and driving six cows.

Truly it was a small company to set out on so long a march, and when the leader begged that they be allowed to join us, I could not object, understanding that unless the strangers had someone of experience to guide them, the chances were strongly against their arriving at the Columbia River.

There was in the company a girl of about Susan's age, whose name was Mary Parker, and from that time I had two companions as I rode in advance of the train.

I could have found no fault with these new members of our company, for they obeyed my orders without question from the oldest man to the youngest child.

Mary Parker was a companionable girl, and she and Susan often cheered me on the long

way, for even when the rain was coming down in torrents, drenching them to the skin, they rode by my side, laughing and singing.

On the twenty-fourth day of June we arrived at Fort Laramie, in the midst of a heavy storm. We had traveled six hundred sixty-seven miles since leaving Independence, if our course had been the most direct; but allowing for the distances some of us had ridden in search of cattle or here and there off the trail looking for a camping place it must have been that we made at least a hundred miles more.

Fort Laramie is on the west side of a stream known as Laramie's Fork and about two miles from the Platte River. It is a trading post belonging to the North American Fur Company, and built of adobe, by which I mean sun dried bricks, with walls not less than two feet thick and twelve or fourteen feet high.

This fort, if it can be called such, is simply a wall enclosing an open square of twenty-five yards each way, along the sides of which are the dwellings, storerooms, blacksmith shops, carpenter shops, and offices all fronting inside, while from the outside can be seen only two gates, one of which faces the north and the other the south.

Just south of the fort is a wall enclosing about an acre of land, which is used as a stable or corral, while a short distance farther on is a cultivated field, the scanty crops of which give good evidence that the soil is not suitable for farming.

About a mile below Fort Laramie, and having much the same appearance as that fortification, although not so large, is Fort John, which is in possession of the St. Louis Fur Company.

We were given quarters inside Fort Laramie, which was much to our liking.

Then, when we set off once more, it was with greater cheerfulness and increased hope, for the way could not have been improved nor made more pleasant.

Ten days after we celebrated the independence of this country we encamped near the Narrows, within sight of the snow-capped Wind River Mountains, and then it was that our company got some idea of what a herd of buffaloes looked like.

When we broke camp in the morning it seemed as if the entire land was covered with the animals. They were in such throngs that the sound of their hoofs was like the rumbling of distant thunder.

One could compare the scene to nothing more than to an ocean of dark water surrounding us on every side, pitching and tossing as if under the influence of a strong wind.

It was such a sight as I had seen more than once, but to my companions it was terrifying at the same time that it commanded their closest attention.

"Antoine of Oregon" by James Otis, from
<http://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/43897/pg43897.txt>. In the public domain.

Item	Grade	Claim	Target	DOK	Standard(s)
#1	8	1	1	2	RL.1

Evidence Statement

The student will identify text evidence (explicit details and/or implicit information) to support a GIVEN inference or conclusion based on the text.

The reader can infer that the narrator is in charge of the group. Which sentence from the text **best** supports this inference?

- A. There we drove down a dry ravine on our winding way to the river bottoms, stopping now and then to gather a store of wild currants and gooseberries which grew in abundance.
- B. There was in the company a girl of about Susan's age, whose name was Mary Parker, and from that time I had two companions as I rode in advance of the train.
- C. I could have found no fault with these new members of our company, for they obeyed my orders without question from the oldest man to the youngest child.
- D. It was such a sight as I had seen more than once, but to my companions it was terrifying at the same time that it commanded their closest attention.

Key: C

Rubric: (1 point) The student selects the correct option.

Item	Grade	Claim	Target	DOK	Standard(s)
#2	8	1	3	2	RL.4

Evidence Statement

The student will determine the meaning of a word or phrase based on its context in a literary text.

Read the sentences from the text.

When we broke camp in the morning it seemed as if the entire land was covered with the animals. They were in such throngs that the sound of their hoofs was like the rumbling of distant thunder.

What does the phrase broke camp **mostly** suggest? Select **three** options.

- The travelers left the territory.
- The travelers ruined the area.
- The travelers woke at sunrise.
- The travelers moved from the site.
- The travelers destroyed the supplies.
- The travelers evacuated the surroundings.

Key: A, D, F

Rubric: (1 point) The student selects the correct three options.

Item	Grade	Claim	Target	DOK	Standard(s)
#3	8	1	4	3	RL.3

Evidence Statement
The student will make an inference about a literary text or texts and identify details within the text or texts that support that inference.

This question has two parts. First answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A

What inference can be made about the travelers' feelings toward their stay at Fort Laramie?

- A. They were glad for their time at Fort Laramie.
- B. They felt overwhelmed by the size of Fort Laramie.
- C. They felt humbled by the condition of Fort Laramie.
- D. They were cautious about staying in Fort Laramie.

Part B

Which sentences from the text **best** supports your answer in part A?

- A. Fort Laramie is on the west side of a stream known as Laramie's Fork and about two miles from the Platte River. It is a trading post belonging to the North American Fur Company, and built of adobe, by which I mean sun dried bricks, with walls not less than two feet thick and twelve or fourteen feet high.
- B. Just south of the fort is a wall enclosing about an acre of land, which is used as a stable or corral, while a short distance farther on is a cultivated field, the scanty crops of which give good evidence that the soil is not suitable for farming.
- C. About a mile below Fort Laramie, and having much the same appearance as that fortification, although not so large, is Fort John, which is in possession of the St. Louis Fur Company. We were given quarters inside Fort Laramie, which was much to our liking.
- D. Ten days after we celebrated the independence of this country we encamped near the Narrows, within sight of the snow-capped Wind River Mountains, and then it was that our company got some idea of what a herd of buffaloes looked like.

Key: Part A: A

Part B: C

Rubric: (1 point) The student selects the correct option for Part A and selects the correct option for Part B.

Item	Grade	Claim	Target	DOK	Standard(s)
#4	8	1	2	2	RL.1

Evidence Statement
The student will determine a theme or central idea of a text using supporting evidence.

This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A

Which statement **best** summarizes the central idea of the text?

- A. Several small families traveled the lengthy Oregon Trail.
- B. There were numerous small towns along the Oregon Trail.
- C. Many hardships and obstacles were met on the Oregon Trail.
- D. Stormy weather often faced the travelers on the Oregon Trail.

Part B

Which detail from the text **best** supports your answer in part A?

- A. Susan rode with me, as she had from the beginning of the journey. Nothing of note happened to us, unless I should set down that this day was stormy, and on that day the sun shone, until we came into the valley of the North Fork of the Platte, through a pass which is known as Ash Hollow.
- B. Truly it was a small company to set out on so long a march, and when the leader begged that they be allowed to join us, I could not object, understanding that unless the strangers had someone of experience to guide them,
- C. the chances were strongly against their arriving at the Columbia River.
- D. Mary Parker was a companionable girl, and she and Susan often cheered me on the long way, for even when the rain was coming down in torrents, drenching them to the skin, they rode by my side, laughing and singing.
- E. This fort, if it can be called such, is simply a wall enclosing an open square of twenty-five yards each way, along the sides of which are the dwellings, storerooms, blacksmith shops, carpenter shops, and offices all fronting inside, while from the outside can be seen only two gates, one of which faces the north and the other the south.

Key: Part A: C
Part B: B

Rubric: (1 point) The student selects the correct option for Part A and selects the correct option for Part B.

Item	Grade	Claim	Target	DOK	Standard(s)
#5	8	1	6	2	RL.5

Evidence Statement

The student will analyze or interpret why the author structured elements within the text in a certain manner and the impact of that structure on meaning.

Read the sentence from the text.

One could compare the scene to nothing more than to an ocean of dark water surrounding us on every side, pitching and tossing as if under the influence of a strong wind.

It was such a sight as I had seen more than once, but to my companions it was terrifying at the same time that it commanded their closest attention.

Which of these **most likely** describes why the author ended with these lines of text?

- A. The author wanted to share his fondest memory about traveling on the Oregon Trail.
- B. The author wanted to include a summary of the events that occurred on the Oregon Trail.
- C. The author wanted to inform the reader that there were many herds of animals on the Oregon Trail.
- D. The author wanted to describe a scene on the Oregon Trail that could be harsh for those experiencing it for the first time.

Key: D

Rubric: (1 point) The student selects the correct option.

Item	Grade	Claim	Target	DOK	Standard(s)
#6	8	1	7	3	RL.4

Evidence Statement

The student will interpret the meaning of figurative words and phrases used in context and analyze its impact on meaning or tone.

Read the sentences from the text.

When we broke camp in the morning it seemed as if the entire land was covered with the animals. They were in such throngs that the sound of their hoofs was like the rumbling of distant thunder.

One could compare the scene to nothing more than to an ocean of dark water surrounding us on every side, pitching and tossing as if under the influence of a strong wind.

Which statement **best** describes what the underlined metaphor in the sentence adds to the meaning of the text?

- A. The reader can tell that the companions accepted the fact that there were many animals around them.
- B. The reader can tell that the companions were very concerned about all of the animals near them.
- C. The reader can tell that the companions were very much wondering where all the animals came from.
- D. The reader can tell that the companions were surprised to see so many herds of animals in the distance.

Key: B

Rubric: (1 point) The student selects the correct option.

Item	Grade	Claim	Target	DOK	Standard(s)
#7	8	1	3	2	L.4a

Evidence Statement
The student will determine the meaning of a word or phrase based on its context in a literary text.

Read the sentences from the text.

Near the mouth of the ravine we came upon a small log cabin, which had evidently been built by trappers, but the emigrants on their way into the Oregon country had converted it into a post office, by sticking here and there, in the crevices of the logs, letters to be forwarded to their friends in the States. Hung on the wall where all might see it, was a general notice requesting any who passed on their way to the Missouri River to take these missives, and deposit them in the nearest regular post office.

What does the word missives **most likely** mean?

- A. logs
- B. signs
- C. letters
- D. trappers

Key: C

Rubric: (1 point) The student selects the correct option.

Read the text and answer questions 8–11.

Master of Beautiful Music
by Ellen Seiden

The following text describes the music camp run by world famous violinist Itzhak Perlman and his wife, Toby.

From personal experience, Mr. Perlman advises students that in order to succeed in music, art, or anything outside of "normal" activities, "First of all, you have to love what you do. That's number one. And number two, you have to have some sort of discipline. I always felt I was more successful when I had a routine . . . routine is much easier. You spend a certain time of the day doing A and a certain time of the day doing B. In music, for example, no matter how much of a gift you have, practicing is very important, so if you're serious, you have to practice. Being programmed, in some ways, is very, very effective. And as long as you program in some free time, just to rest, then you're O.K. Whatever the extracurricular activities, dancing or sports or music, if you're programmed up to the gills, as a result—at least I found this in my case—you can lose enjoyment."

Young, musically talented students can put into practice what Mr. Perlman preaches when they attend the noteworthy, nurturing summer program founded in 1995 by his wife, Toby, also an accomplished violinist. At the Perlman Music Program in East Hampton, New York, led by a handpicked, caring faculty, tomorrow's professional musicians from the ages of eleven to eighteen play to their heart's content.

Special features make this two-week August sleep-away program different and unusual. As Mrs. Perlman, the artistic director, explained to me, "One of the unique aspects of our program is that we are small, only thirty-five students, and small means intimate. I always know what's going on with each child." She continued, "Second, the playing level is very high, but it's highly noncompetitive." Instead of auditioning for seats in the orchestra according to ability, as is tradition, "Our kids are seated in the section randomly. Often the smallest gets to sit in front," she said, laughing. Participants know there is no penalty for musical problems, and that Toby's motto, "If you don't do well, it doesn't mean it's your fault," rules.

"We care about the total child. We try to create a healthy, happy, normal environment during their stay. It doesn't mean they don't work really hard, but there's a lot of talking that goes on. They come to us and suddenly they're a part of a community, a family, and they find out that many of the feelings they have are shared by other kids. It's very nice."

The students, who come from all over the world, attend a weekly dinner at the Perlman's house, themed to discuss such issues as dealing with stage fright. All students must also

sing in the chorus, where they harmonize and experience a different form of musical expression. Time for recreational sports and arts and crafts rounds out the program.

The children are at first awed by, and then come to accept, the active involvement of famous musicians in their training. Often, Itzhak Perlman and other masters such as violinist/violist/conductor Pinchas Zukerman and pianist Emanuel Ax drop in to work with the students. Itzhak Perlman explained, "Not many children have that camp experience, not only to be taught by world-class artists, but also to participate in playing and performing with them. We also have an orchestra made up of all the kids, and I try to conduct and coach them." Invited to attend rehearsals, people who live in the community during the summer, such as Steven Spielberg and his family, stop by to listen. Mr. Spielberg became the first major contributor to future expansion plans for the Perlman Music Program.

Mrs. Perlman said, "At the end of the session, we have two concerts. One is an evening of orchestral and choral music, and then we have a chamber music marathon. It starts at 11:00 in the morning on the last day, and the playing goes on until we finish!"

Intensely proud of her program, Toby Perlman enthusiastically states that "It's like a fairy tale program, it's so wonderful. No matter what I say about it, I can't put into words what it feels like, tastes like, and smells like when you're there. Everybody who comes to visit gets it. They're there for a minute and a half and they want to stay forever. We're lucky to have such a wonderful faculty and wonderful kids."

Reflecting on his own training and lengthy career as a professional musician, Mr. Perlman believes that he, too, has earned the right to some time off every now and then. "I can take vacation from music for a while when I just want to relax," he said and chuckled. But he did caution, "The important thing is not to go on vacation while you do your music, or while you do anything else in the arts. Once I play, I have to be, and I am, really committed to it. Your audience can sense this . . . it has to be really given, it has to be felt across the stage. One should not be a passenger in music, getting on the notes and riding them. One has to always feel that one is re-creating something, that there's a spontaneity all the time. The main challenge for a musician is to play something for the five hundredth time and make your audience think that you're playing it for the first time."

A modest man, Itzhak Perlman remarked on himself and his tremendous talent, "I don't think there's anything unusual. People say 'You're amazing,' but I say that I do whatever I am capable of doing. The important thing is to know what you're capable of and do it. That's all."

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Item	Grade	Claim	Target	DOK	Standard(s)
#8	8	1	8	2	RI.1

Evidence Statement
The student will identify text evidence (explicit details and/or implicit information) to support a GIVEN inference or conclusion based on the text.

The reader can infer that the Perlman family believe in both practice and passion.

Which sentence from the text **best** supports this inference?

- A. "First of all, you have to love what you do. That's number one. And number two, you have to have some sort of discipline."
- B. "All students must also sing in the chorus, where they harmonize and experience a different form of musical expression. Time for recreational sports and arts and crafts rounds out the program."
- C. "Mrs. Perlman said, 'At the end of the session, we have two concerts. One is an evening of orchestral and choral music, and then we have a chamber music marathon.'"
- D. "Everybody who comes to visit gets it. They're there for a minute and a half and they want to stay forever."

Key: A

Rubric: (1 point) The student selects the correct option

Item	Grade	Claim	Target	DOK	Standard(s)
#9	8	1	11	3	RI.8

Evidence Statement

The student will make an inference about an informational text or texts and identify evidence within the text or texts that support that inference.

This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A

Click on the statement that **best** provides an inference that can be made about the author's opinion of the Perlman Music Program.

- A. The Perlman Music Program is limited in its value because of how few students it accepts.
- B. The Perlman Music Program is most suitable for students who would not do well in a competitive environment.
- C. The Perlman Music Program offers students a unique opportunity to learn from accomplished musicians in a nurturing setting.
- D. The Perlman Music Program offers students a unique opportunity to learn new instruments from experienced orchestral musicians.

Part B

Click on the section from the text that **best** supports your answer in part A. Choose **one** option.

Special features make this two-week August sleep-away program different and unusual. As Mrs. Perlman, the artistic director, explained to me, "One of the unique aspects of our program is that we are small, only thirty-five students, and small means intimate. I always know what's going on with each child." She continued, "Second, the playing level is very high, but it's highly noncompetitive." Instead of auditioning for seats in the orchestra according to ability, as is tradition, "Our kids are seated in the section randomly. Often the smallest gets to sit in front," she said, laughing. Participants know there is no penalty for musical problems, and that Toby's motto, "If you don't do well, it doesn't mean it's your fault," rules.

"We care about the total child. We try to create a healthy, happy, normal environment during their stay. It doesn't mean they don't work really hard, but there's a lot of talking that goes on. They come to us and suddenly they're a part of a community, a family, and they find out that many of the feelings they have are shared by other kids. It's very nice."

The students, who come from all over the world, attend a weekly dinner at the Perlman's house, themed to discuss such issues as dealing with stage fright. All students must also sing in the chorus, where they harmonize and experience a different form of musical expression. Time for recreational sports and arts and crafts rounds out the program.

Key: Part A: C

Part B: "We care about the total child. We try to create a healthy, happy, normal environment during their stay. It doesn't mean they don't work really hard, but there's a lot of talking that goes on. They come to us and suddenly they're a part of a community, a family, and they find out that many of the feelings they have are shared by other kids. It's very nice."

Rubric: (1 point) The student selects the correct option for Part A and selects the correct option for Part B.

Item	Grade	Claim	Target	DOK	Standard(s)
#10	8	1	13	3	RI.5

Evidence Statement

The student will analyze or interpret why the author structured elements within the text in a certain manner and the impact of that structure on meaning.

Read the following paragraph from the text.

From personal experience, Mr. Perlman advises students that in order to succeed in music, art, or anything outside of "normal" activities, "First of all, you have to love what you do. That's number one. And number two, you have to have some sort of discipline. I always felt I was more successful when I had a routine . . . routine is much easier. You spend a certain time of the day doing A and a certain time of the day doing B. In music, for example, no matter how much of a gift you have, practicing is very important, so if you're serious, you have to practice. Being programmed, in some ways, is very, very effective. And as long as you program in some free time, just to rest, then you're O.K. Whatever the extracurricular activities, dancing or sports or music, if you're programmed up to the gills, as a result—at least I found this in my case—you can lose enjoyment."

Select the phrases that **best** explain why the author chose to include this paragraph. Select **two** options.

- to show that Perlman loves discipline more than he loves music
- to show that Perlman suggests that music students practice more than they relax
- to show that Perlman uses his own life experiences to help guide the music students
- to show that Perlman does not wish for students to choose to participate in normal activities
- to show that Perlman feels that programming students will cause them to lose love for their art
- to show that Perlman believes that students can benefit greatly from having structured schedules

Key: C, F

Rubric: (1 point) The student selects the correct two options.

Item	Grade	Claim	Target	DOK	Standard(s)
#11	8	1	14	3	L.5

Evidence Statement
The student will interpret the meaning of figurative phrases used in context.

Read the paragraph from the text.

From personal experience, Mr. Perlman advises students that in order to succeed in music, art, or anything outside of "normal" activities, "First of all, you have to love what you do. That's number one. And number two, you have to have some sort of discipline. I always felt I was more successful when I had a routine . . . routine is much easier. You spend a certain time of the day doing A and a certain time of the day doing B. In music, for example, no matter how much of a gift you have, practicing is very important, so if you're serious, you have to practice. Being programmed, in some ways, is very, very effective. And as long as you program in some free time, just to rest, then you're O.K. Whatever the extracurricular activities, dancing or sports or music, if you're programmed up to the gills, as a result—at least I found this in my case—you can lose enjoyment."

Why did the author use the phrase programmed up to the gills in the paragraph? Select **two** options.

- to show that Perlman does not believe that students should be overly scheduled
- to show that Perlman suggests that students should have extremely rigorous schedules
- to show that Perlman feels that when students are programmed they lose enjoyment in their activities
- to show that Perlman suggests that students participate in programs that teach them about their craft
- to show that Perlman believes that students should not participate in more than one program at a time
- to show that Perlman believes that having a schedule that is too full can make students feel as though they cannot breathe

Key: A, F

Rubric: (1 point) The student selects the correct two options.

Item	Grade	Claim	Target	DOK	Standard(s)
#12	8	2	6bE	2	W.1b

Evidence Statement

The student will revise arguments by identifying best use of elaboration techniques such as deleting details that do not support the claim.

A student is writing an editorial for the student newspaper about the effects of watching television. Read the draft of the editorial and complete the task that follows.

Click on **two** sentences that are not relevant to the student's argument and so should be deleted.

Television has become part of many people's everyday life. While there is such a thing as too much television viewing, it is not something that needs to be eliminated completely. Each year, television manufacturers and broadcast companies make new products like high-definition screens and on-demand program selection. People's lives are busier than ever. After a long day at school or on the job, people need to unwind. Watching a show can achieve the relaxation that people are looking for. A comedy or sporting event can act as entertaining stress relief. Additionally, the full schedules of most households leave little room for family time. Again, television can be the answer. A program that all family members enjoy can be one of the few times in the busy week that can be set aside to be together. News programs also provide information to stay updated on current events. When used correctly, television offers a chance for relaxing and bonding.

Key: Each year, television manufacturers and broadcast companies make new products like high-definition screens and on-demand program selection.; News programs also provide information to stay updated on current events.

Rubric: (1 point) The student selects the correct two options.

Item	Grade	Claim	Target	DOK	Standard(s)
#13	8	2	1bO	2	W.3a

Evidence Statement

The student will use information provided in a stimulus to revise well-developed narratives that apply narrative techniques such as identifying details that should be deleted because they are inconsistent with the rest of the narrative.

A student is writing a narrative for her English teacher about a recipe gone wrong. The student wants to revise the draft to better organize its details. Read the draft of the narrative and complete the task that follows.

Recipe Gone Wrong

The recipe was simple enough: flour, baking powder, salt, eggs, and milk; what could go wrong? I gathered the dry ingredients and dumped them in the mixing bowl; flour floated in the air, sticking on my lips and lashes. Many types of flour exist, but I chose bread flour because it is high in protein. Cracking the eggs was much more difficult than I had expected. Shell pieces floated in the bowl, and I used my fingers to pick them out one by one. Eventually, all the ingredients were amassed and ready inside my mixing bowl. My mixer is a swanky, bright blue stand-up type with a large bowl—very impressive, if I do say so myself. As soon as I turned it on, sticky yellow batter flew from the bowl and dotted the counters, cabinets, and me. "How do you turn this thing down?" I yelled to Mom in the next room.

Click on the **two** sentences that are distracting or interrupt the flow of the narrative.

The recipe was simple enough: flour, baking powder, salt, eggs, and milk; what could go wrong? I gathered the dry ingredients and dumped them in the mixing bowl; flour floated in the air, sticking on my lips and lashes. Many types of flour exist, but I chose bread flour because it is high in protein. Cracking the eggs was much more difficult than I had expected. Shell pieces floated in the bowl, and I used my fingers to pick them out one by one. Eventually, all the ingredients were amassed and ready inside my mixing bowl. My mixer is a swanky, bright blue stand-up type with a large bowl—very impressive, if I do say so myself. As soon as I turned it on, sticky yellow batter flew from the bowl and dotted the counters, cabinets, and me. "How do you turn this thing down?" I yelled to Mom in the next room.

Key: Many types of flour exist, but I chose bread flour because it is high in protein.; My mixer is a swanky, bright blue stand-up type with a large bowl—very impressive, if I do say so myself.

Rubric: (1 point) The student selects the correct two options.

Item	Grade	Claim	Target	DOK	Standard(s)
#14	8	2	8	2	W.2d

Evidence Statement

The student will identify and use the best general academic or domain- specific word or words to use in a text to convey precisely actions, emotions, or states of being that are basic to a particular topic.

A student is writing a presentation for social studies class about a famous person. Read the draft of the presentation and complete the task that follows.

Sojourner Truth was a woman whose ideas were advanced for the time in which she lived. After escaping slavery, she often spoke at women's rights conventions. At the Ohio Women's Rights Convention in 1851, Sojourner Truth gave a speech that she had not written down or practiced, but it would become famously known as her "Ain't I a Woman?" speech. Her powerful, on-the-spot speech inspired the crowd with ideas of women being intelligent and strong, both physically and mentally. The 19th Constitutional amendment, which gave women the right to vote, did not pass until almost 40 years later.

Choose the **best** way to revise the underlined phrase so that the presentation maintains a consistent tone.

- A. argumentative
- B. elaborate
- C. motivated
- D. unplanned

Key: D

Rubric: (1 point) The student selects the correct option.

Item	Grade	Claim	Target	DOK	Standard(s)
#15	8	2	9	1	L.2

Evidence Statement

The student will identify, edit to correct, and/or edit for correct use of spelling of words that are at or up to two grades below grade level, including frequently misspelled words.

Click on the **two** sentences that contain errors in spelling.

Students should consider their school an institution of learning.

The lungs are a major organ involved in the respiration process.

The restaurant earned a satisfactory rating from the restaurant inspector.

A computer technician sometimes has to be industreous in his or her job.

The grocery store supervisor watched over the cashiers closely during the busy time of the day.

The teacher's rubric contained many provisions to be met for students to earn an A on their research paper.

Key: A computer technician sometimes has to be industreous in his or her job.; The grocery store supervisor watched over the cashiers closely during the busy time of the day.

Rubric: (1 point) The student selects the correct two options.

Item	Grade	Claim	Target	DOK	Standard(s)
#16	8	2	9	1	L.2a

Evidence Statement

The student will identify, edit to correct, and/or edit for correct use of inappropriate sentence fragments, run-on sentences.

Select the **two** sentences that are punctuated correctly.

- While I was growing up in the Midwest my favorite question to hear from my parents was "Guess where we're going this time?"
- Although by that point, my parents had the whole vacation planned out; the moment they told me, I started looking up the location to see what activities were available.
- When I was eight my family voted on a vacation to New York City where we stayed in downtown Times Square. Then later when I was ten we flew to Florida again, this time we departed on a cruise to Mexico, Jamaica and the Bahamas for a second time.
- The average life expectancy is seventy years on this planet, this planet has so many different geological features, different climates and different cultures.
- The places I have already visited make my curiosity even greater, and I think that it's important to view the world and ways of life from a different point of view.
- Last year when I was sixteen we went on another cruise where we sailed the Western Caribbean to Puerto Rico, the Bahamas yet again and St Thomas.

Key: B, E

Rubric: (1 point) The student selects the correct two options.

A Flower Power: Planting for the Past and the Future

Listen to the presentation. Then answer questions 17–19.



Excerpt from “Flower Power: Planting for the Past and the Future” by the US Forest Service and Cradle of Forestry in America Interpretive Association, from the *Natural Inquirer* Monograph Series. In the public domain.

Item	Grade	Claim	Target	DOK	Standard(s)
#17	8	3	4	3	SL.2

Evidence Statement

The student will draw and/or support a conclusion based on content in a presentation.

What is the **most likely** reason the scientists conducted the study about memorial gardens?

- A. to determine why people plant memorial gardens
- B. to find out how the memorial gardens affect city living
- C. to identify what types of plants are typically in memorial gardens
- D. to investigate whether planting memorial gardens affects the forest industry

Key: A

Rubric: (1 point) The student selects the correct option.

Item	Grade	Claim	Target	DOK	Standard(s)
#18	8	3	4	2	SL.2

Evidence Statement
The student will identify, interpret, or analyze the point of view, purpose, central idea, or key points of a presentation.

Read the sentence from the presentation. Then answer the question.

These people created communities of practice.

Which statement **best** describes the meaning of the sentence?

- A. The people planting memorial gardens created a shared place for locals to work on their gardening skills.
- B. The people planting memorial gardens had to participate in training with professionals before they could start the projects.
- C. The people planting memorial gardens worked with professionals to establish a process for others to use in planting future gardens.
- D. The people planting memorial gardens helped improve their neighborhoods by working with professionals and then sharing what they learned with others.

Key: D

Rubric: (1 point) The student selects the correct option.

Item	Grade	Claim	Target	DOK	Standard(s)
#19	8	3	4	2	SL.2

Evidence Statement

The student will identify, interpret, or analyze the point of view, purpose, motive, central idea, or key points of a presentation.

According to the presentation, which statements **best** describe the survey respondents' motivations for planting memorial gardens? Select **two** options.

- It strengthens their community.
- It helps them recover from devastation.
- It serves to beautify their surroundings.
- It is a way to preserve important memories.
- It allows them to share a personal experience.

Key: B, D

Rubric: (1 point) The student selects the correct two options.

A Search for Identity

Listen to the presentation. Then answer questions 20–22.



Excerpt from “A Search for Identity” by James C. Hall, from *Footsteps*, Vol. 6, No. 2, 2004. Copyright © 2004 by Carus Publishing Company. Reused by permission of Carus Publishing Company.

Item	Grade	Claim	Target	DOK	Standard(s)
#20	8	3	4	1	SL.3

Evidence Statement
The student will draw and/or support a conclusion based on content in a presentation.

According to the presentation, which of the following statements about Langston Hughes is **true**?

- A. Hughes preferred writing stories to writing poetry.
- B. Hughes's goal was to support himself as a writer.
- C. Hughes struggled for many years to write his autobiography.
- D. Hughes felt that college could not prepare him for life as a writer.

Key: B

Rubric: (1 point) The student selects the correct option.

Item	Grade	Claim	Target	DOK	Standard(s)
#21	8	3	4	2	SL.3

Evidence Statement

The student will identify, interpret, or analyze the point of view, purpose, motive, central idea, or key points of a presentation.

- How did Hughes's struggle after leaving college **most likely** impact him?
- A. It prompted Hughes to begin his life again by taking a journey.
 - B. It led Hughes to accept a job that would provide a new audience for his work.
 - C. It led Hughes to travel to Africa to share his knowledge of his American homeland.
 - D. It prompted Hughes to strive harder to be the first African American to earn a living from writing.

Key: A

Rubric: (1 point) The student selects the correct option.

Item	Grade	Claim	Target	DOK	Standard(s)
#22	8	3	4	3	SL.3

Evidence Statement
The student will draw and/or support a conclusion based on content in a presentation.

What additional information could be added to the presentation to support the claim that African Americans struggled to become professional writers in Langston Hughes's time?

- A. a description of Hughes's time in Africa
- B. the reasons why Hughes decided to leave college
- C. a comparison of Hughes's poetry before and after his travels
- D. examples of other African American writers with similar experiences

Key: D

Rubric: (1 point) The student selects the correct option.

Item	Grade	Claim	Target	DOK	Standard(s)
#23	8	4	3	2	W.8

Evidence Statement

The student will use reasoning, evaluation, and evidence to assess the credibility of each source in order to select relevant information to support research.

A student is writing a research report about pandas in captivity, in areas such as zoos and wildlife preserves. Read the sentences from her report and the directions that follow.

Pandas are an endangered species that have fascinated people the world over for centuries. Pandas live in the mountain ranges of China. Although the Chinese government has been able to protect a portion of the panda's habitat, much of the animals' land has been used for farming or has been clear-cut and used for land-development purposes. Currently there are as few as 1,600 pandas living in their natural habitat of China. With the declining population of pandas, biologists and researchers have found it necessary to try raising pandas in captivity. Currently there are approximately 300 pandas living in captivity around the world, mostly in China. Raising pandas in captivity is a challenge.

Select **two** sources that would **most likely** give the student more information for the paragraph from her report.

- www.babypandas.com
This site contains a variety of links to webcams showing baby pandas at zoos all over the world.
- www.raisingpandas.com
This site reviews the difficulties of panda reproduction and the delicate nature of raising baby pandas outside their natural habitat.
- www.pandasinthewild.com
This site looks at the life cycle of a panda and how the panda has adapted to living in various mountainous regions of China.
- Panda Rescue* by Ashley Smith
Read this first-hand account of rescuing pandas from the hands of poachers in China.
- The Pandas of China* by Fae Albert
Read this book about zoologist James Daigle and his five years spent living in the mountains with pandas.
- Born at the National Zoo* by Shelby Duncan
Read this first-hand account, by National Zoo veterinarian Dr. Michael Guess, of raising and caring for pandas at the zoo.

Key: B, F

Rubric: (1 point) The student selects the correct two options.

Item	Grade	Claim	Target	DOK	Standard(s)
#24	8	4	2	2	RI.9

Evidence Statement
The student will analyze information within and among sources of information.

A student is writing a research report about long-term memory for a science class. She found a trustworthy source. Read the source and the directions that follow.

Source 1: "A Study on Changing Memories"

In this study on how memories are constructed participants were told a story about a girl whose family trip was cancelled. In the story the girl's friend noticed how upset she was, so he threw a party for her on the day she would have left. After hearing the story half of the participants in the study were asked about how the girl must have felt. The other half, meanwhile, answered questions about her friend and why he threw the party.

One week later the study participants were asked to retell the story they heard. Most of the participants forgot some details and invented others. The participants that answered questions about the girl's feelings were more likely to invent details about how sad she felt. However, the participants who were asked about her friend were more likely to make up details about the plans he made for the party.

The student found another source. Click on **two** sentences in Source 2 that support the information presented in Source 1.

Source 2: "A History of the Brain"

Most people think they have accurate memories. Years of research have shown that we "rebuild" our memories, and to rebuild them we fill in the gaps with things that seem right. For example, we sometimes change memories to fit our beliefs. If I feel that I am a caring person, I may remember being more helpful than I really was on a certain day. Other times, if we think a lot about one part of a memory, we exaggerate how much we really know about it. Lastly, we can be tricked into remembering something that did not happen if we once heard someone claim that it did.

Key: Years of research have shown that we "rebuild" our memories, and to rebuild them we fill in the gaps with things that seem right.; Other times, if we think a lot about one part of a memory, we exaggerate how much we really know about it.

Rubric: (1 point) The student selects the correct two options.

Item	Grade	Claim	Target	DOK	Standard(s)
#25	8	4	4	2	W.1b

Evidence Statement
The student will cite evidence to support arguments, ideas, or analyses.

A student is writing an argumentative report about dogs learning words. She found possible sources for her report. Read the sources and the directions that follow.

Source 1: “Researchers Test Dog’s Vocabulary” by Joshua Elish, science reporter

Studies have found that some dogs can learn and remember new words almost as well as a three year-old child. In 2004, Scientists at the Max-Planck Institute for Animal Anthropology found that a border collie named Rico understood at least 200 words. They put 10 objects in a room and told Rico to fetch one of the objects. When he brought the object back, they told him to put it in a box or to give it to somebody. Rico performed the task correctly almost every time. Next, researchers put an object Rico had never seen in a room with six of Rico’s familiar toys. Then they told him to fetch the new object using an unfamiliar name. Rico returned with the correct object most of the time. To succeed, Rico needed to rule out the familiar objects. Then he needed to decide the remaining object must be the unfamiliar one.

Source 2: “Chaser’s Amazing Vocabulary” by Aria Haggood, pet columnist

A researcher read that a border collie named Rico had learned the names of 200 objects. He then taught his own border collie, Chaser, the names of over 1000 objects. Chaser could both find the correct object and place it where she was told. She would fetch and deliver objects in response to different commands. Chaser never tired of performing her training and tests.

The student wrote some claims to use in her report. Look at the claims in the table. Decide if the information in Source 1, Source 2, both sources, or neither source supports each claim. Click on the box that appropriately describes each claim. There will be only one box selected for each claim.

	Source 1	Source 2	Both sources	Neither source
Claim 1: Dogs may be able to reason.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Claim 2: Dogs can learn and understand words for both objects and actions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Claim 3: Border collies can learn more words than other dog breeds.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Key: A, C, D

Rubric: (1 point) The student selects the correct three options.