English Language Arts/ English Language Development

Research Across Texts

Performance Task | Student Materials

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Directions

Please review the task below and answer the various questions within the task to the best of your ability. If needed, you may have an adult or peer read the task out loud to aid your understanding. Additionally, feel free to use the following tools as resources in answering each item.

When conducting research from diverse perspectives, you can demonstrate your thinking and learning by:

* using text-to-speech or speech-to-text software
* writing short responses with pen and paper or a word-processing application
* communicating your understanding verbally
* creating an infographic or other visualization
* creating a multimedia presentation

Consult with your teacher if you need to request any additional allowable resources to complete this performance task.

Big Idea: Research Across Texts—Conducting Research and Using Findings in Written Informational and Explanatory Texts

Performance Task Directions

In this performance task, you will develop your own research questions about a policy or condition that is of interest to you. Then, you will summarize your research results in a written format using your research-based sources.

Item 1

Now you will consider a multiple-perspectives topic or local policy you are curious about. Maybe you’ve noticed a lot of accidents in an intersection, you and your friends need to walk far to get to the soccer field, or there seems to be a lot of food thrown away at lunchtime. You decide which questions you’d like to answer and then conduct research to answer your own questions. Finally, write an informational research summary. Please consult your teacher for any appropriate supports you may wish to use to complete this task, such as using speech-to-text software. Your summary must address the following components:

* **Introduction and Organization:** Introduce your topic or thesis statement clearly. Organize your ideas and information effectively, using headings, graphics (for example, figures or tables), and multimedia when useful to aid comprehension.
* **Summary of Findings:** What did you learn from your research? Provide a clear and concise summary of your findings, developing your topic with well-chosen, relevant, and sufficient facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other examples appropriate to the audience’s knowledge of the topic.
* **New Questions:** What new questions have emerged from your research? Use appropriate and varied transitions to link your major sections, creating cohesion and clarifying relationships among complex ideas and concepts.
* **Sources:** List the sources you used—citing them correctly with footnotes and endnotes—and briefly summarize what you learned from each. Ensure you use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to manage the complexity of the topic.
* **Overall Insights, Style, and Tone:** Describe your overall insights from the research, any new questions you now have, and your next steps related to the multisided topic. Maintain a formal style and objective tone while adhering to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which you are writing.
* **Conclusion:** Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation you have presented, articulating the implications or significance of the topic.

Your summary should be clear, coherent, and well-organized, using complete and concise sentences and key words as needed.

Item 2

Choose one of your sources from Item 1 to analyze and respond to related questions.

* What is the central idea of your chosen text, and how does it emerge, develop, and refine from the beginning to the end? Provide specific details from each part of the text.
* How does the author introduce and arrange the main points in the text, connect different ideas, and use the structure (for example, chronological, cause and effect, problem and solution) to make the argument or narrative more effective? Provide examples from the introduction, transitions between sections, and overall structure.