

Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)

Sample Test Questions ELA/Literacy, Grades 6-8

ELA/Literacy

Grade 6

Directions: Today you will research how zoos impact animals. You will read one article titled “The Stripes Will Survive.” Then you will read one passage titled “The Zoos Go Wild” and view one video titled “Lions at the National Zoo.” As you review these sources, you will gather information and answer questions about how zoos impact animals so you can write an essay.

Sample essay question: You have read two texts and viewed one video that claim that the role of zoos is to protect animals. Write an essay that compares and contrasts the evidence each source uses to support this claim. Be sure to use evidence from all three sources to support your response.

ELA/Literacy

Grade 7

Directions: Today you will research electricity and consider some of the methods used in science texts and videos to support different purposes. First you will read a passage that explains some general principles of electricity. Next, you will watch a video about fun ways to learn about electricity circuits. Finally, you will read an article that explains how different materials conduct electricity. As you review these sources, think about the purpose of each and the role that explanations, demonstrations, and/or descriptions of experiments play in communicating that purpose. At the end of the task, you will be asked to write an essay.

Sample essay question: You have learned about electricity by reading two articles, “Energy Story” and “Conducting Solutions,” and viewing a video clip titled “Hands-on Science with Squishy Circuits.” In an essay, compare the purposes of the three sources. Then analyze how each source uses explanations, demonstrations, or descriptions of experiments to help accomplish its purpose. Be sure to discuss important differences and similarities between the information gained from the video and the information provided in the articles. Support your response with evidence from each source.

ELA/Literacy

Grade 8

Directions: Today you will analyze passages from two novels. As you read these texts, you will gather information and answer questions about the characters and points of view so you can write an analytical essay.

Sample multiple-choice question: Which statement provides an objective summary of the passage?

- A mother chooses to neglect her daughter’s interest in favor of completing her degree. She informs her daughter of this decision, and the daughter rightly points out the mother’s selfishness.
- A mother decides it would be best for her daughter if they both moved to another country. The daughter complains that this will disrupt her life, but the mother holds firm to her decision.
- A girl learns that she and her mother are moving in with their grandmother. She believes her mother is trying to take the easy way out. In response, she states that her father is a better parent.
- A girl finds out her mother is going to leave her for the summer. She believes her mother is being selfish and neglecting her. In response, she becomes negative and withdrawn.