

TESTING DATES

Grades 7 and 8

- NJ ASK 7
- May 3, 4, 5 & 6
- May 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13 MAKE UP
- Language Arts Days 1 & 2, Math Days 1 & 2
- NJ ASK 8
- May 3, 4, 5 & 6
- May 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13 MAKE UP
- Language Arts Days 1 & 2, Math & Science

See DOE web site for full details:

<http://www.nj.gov/education/assessment/schedule.shtml>



NJ ASK 6-8

Language Arts Literacy

Text types/Strand (additional field test content embedded throughout)	Reading Selections	MC (Number of Items)	OE (Number of Items)	Writing Tasks (Number of Items)	Time on Task(s) in Approximate Minutes	Total Points
Persuasive Prompt				1	45	12*
Explanatory Prompt				1	25	6*
Reading Passages	4	36	4		120	52**
Total	4	36	4	2	190	70

***Grades 6-8 utilize a 6-point rubric. **O/E items in the reading passages are scored on a 0 – 4 scoring rubric.**

WRITING PORTION OF THE NJASK

WHAT TO EXPECT:

**EXPLANATORY OR
SPECULATIVE**



EXPLANATORY PROMPTS ARE EITHER ONE OF THE TWO LISTED

- QUOTES

- EXPERIENCES



STRATEGIES FOR RESPONDING AND ORGANIZING QUOTES

- Your response must be based on your personal knowledge and experience.
- Repeat the quote immediately in your first paragraph compare it to something in your life and make specific connections.
- ☐ Talk about one significant experience, or event that has happened in your life, or another quote that relates to the quote and discuss it in all of the paragraphs. In each paragraph, explain different aspects of this experience.
- Immediately create a thesis and three reasons to support your thesis
- Finally, repeat your “thesis” and your “insight” to end your essay.
- Use your Explanatory Checklist



EXPLANATORY PROMPT- ESSAY BASED ON A QUOTE

- You have been asked to consider how the following quotation is related to you.
- “You make the world a better place by making yourself a better person.”
- Write an essay explaining what this essay means to you. Use details and examples in your essay.



SEE WORD DOCUMENT

- See Created Response Quote / Brain Teaser



EXPLANATORY PROMPT: BASED ON A QUOTE

As part of a language arts class assignment, you have been asked to consider how the following quotation is related to you.

“If you find a path with no obstacles, it probably doesn’t lead anywhere.”

--Anonymous

Write an essay explaining what this quotation means to you. Use details and examples in your essay.

EXPLANATORY PROMPT: BASED ON A QUOTE

Consider how the following quotation is related to you.

“It is not enough to have a good mind. The main thing is to use it well.”

René Descartes (1596 – 1650)

Write an essay explaining what this quotation means to you. Use details and examples in your essay.

EXPLANATORY PROMPT: BASED ON AN EXPERIENCE

Life can be full of pleasant surprises. Identify a time when you experienced a pleasant surprise.

Write an essay about a time when you experienced a pleasant surprise. Explain why this surprise was unexpected and how it affected your life in a positive way. Be sure to explain your choice by using details and examples.

EXPLANATORY PROMPT – ESSAY BASED ON A TOPIC

- Most people have a special activity or hobby that they enjoy. Some people collect things while others like to read or play games. What activity do you like to do?
- Write an essay describing what you enjoy doing. Explain why that activity is special to you. Be sure to include details and facts to support your explanation.



Explanatory Writing Prompt Revising & Proofreading Checklist

INTRODUCTION

Did I remember to ...

- ☐ begin with a grabbing lead?
- ☐ include background information from the question?
- ☐ state the quote for quotation prompts?
- ☐ end the paragraph with a thesis statement expressing the main idea of my essay?

BODY

Did I remember to ...

- ☐ begin each paragraph with a topic sentence?
- ☐ focus each body paragraph on one idea (one idea, one paragraph)?
- ☐ include facts, examples, descriptions, and anecdotes (personal stories) to explain the idea in each body paragraph?
- ☐ make sure each body paragraph relates to the thesis statement?

CONCLUSION

Did I remember to ...

- ☐ restate the main idea of my essay?
- ☐ restate some of the key points I made about this main idea?
- ☐ end the essay with a relevant text-to-self, text-to-text, or text-to-world connection?



SPECULATIVE/NARRATIVE WRITING PROMPTS

- The speculative prompt presents a brief scenario which you will be expected to use as a springboard for writing a story. It is vital for you to derive ideas from stories you have read as well as your own experiences to develop ideas for your own story.
- You are given 25 minutes to develop a composition based on the prompt.

SPECULATIVE WRITING

- Setting:
- Characters:
- Problem:
- Rising Action:
- Climax:
- Solution:

You must use vivid description for every part!



SPECULATIVE PROMPT

All the boy could think of afterward was that the library book must have slipped out of his backpack as he rushed from his last-period class to soccer practice yesterday.

In your story, add interesting details. Be sure to answer these questions.

Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?



READING PASSAGES

- Students will be asked to read both informational and narrative texts on the reading sections of the NJ ASK.

The purpose for reading nonfiction text is to provide the reader with information about a specific topic.

- The narrative passages on the NJ ASK will tell a story and will usually be fictional.
- You must understand what type of passage you are reading and use strategies to help them comprehend text.



FIGURE OUT WHAT YOU ARE WORKING WITH

Informational text is nonfiction. Its purpose is to provide the reader with information about a particular topic. Examples of informational text include your science textbook, your geography textbook, and your agenda books.

Narrative text tells a story. On the NJ ASK, the narrative texts are usually fictional, but a biography is also considered a narrative text.

Good readers know what type of texts they are reading on the NJ ASK and use a strategy to help them find the answers for the multiple-choice questions and open-ended questions.



READING TIPS AND STRATEGIES

- Use multiple choice questions to guide your reading. Read over the multiple choice questions prior to reading the passage. Then read the passage and underline the answers to the questions as you read.
- For informational text, read each paragraph and underline the topic sentence. Underline key supporting details and vocabulary words. Pay attention to information presented in bullets or lists.
- As you read narrative text, look for and underline details about setting, characters, problems, key events, and the solution. Also look for the use of figurative language and mention of themes.



STRATEGY #1: USE THE MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS TO GUIDE YOUR READING.

First read over the multiple choice questions at the end of the passage.

Then read the passage, looking for the answers to the questions.

Underline answers in the passage when you find them.

Refer back to the multiple choice questions as needed.



STRATEGY #2: STRATEGICALLY READ THE PASSAGE FIRST.

Informational Text

The first time you read the passage, stop at section headings (if included). Think about what kinds of information you will find in each of those sections.

In this first reading, also underline the first sentence of each paragraph, which is typically the topic sentence. Then go back and reread the topic sentences you underlined.

Then go back and **read the entire passage slowly** and carefully.

Underline key supporting details, bolded vocabulary words, and information presented in bullets or lists.



READING NARRATIVE TEXT

Begin by reading the first and last paragraph to become familiar with how the story starts and ends.

Then go back and read the entire story slowly and carefully. Look for and underline details about the setting, characters, problem, key plot events, and solution.

Also look for and underline bolded vocabulary words, uses of figurative language, symbols, and references to themes.



READ THE SELECTED “READING”

- Use the strategies

