Sample Items
The Best Portable Housing

Tepees played an important part in the life of the Plains Indians. The tribes moved frequently. They needed to find fresh sources of food, water, and wood. They also moved to take advantage of the seasons. Tepees allowed them to move easily and often. These shelters were very cleverly planned and constructed. They could be put up in an hour. Even today, tepees are said to be the best portable housing ever made.

Comfortable Housing

Tepees have been famous for their comfort for over 400 years. In 1599, a Spanish explorer described them with great respect. He wrote that they were large and skillfully made. He thought tepees protected people as well as houses could. They kept people warm in cold weather and cool in hot weather. Their cone shape and leather cover shed water well. They kept people dry, even during heavy rains.

Setting Up a Tepee

Some tribes used three main poles to make the foundation of their tepees. Others used four main poles. They added twenty or more poles to form a wooden framework. A cover made of buffalo hides was stretched over the frame. Then it was laced together down one side. This also provided the opening for the door, which always faced east. At the top, where the lodge poles crossed, was the smoke hole. Pegs or heavy rocks secured the bottom edge of the cover. Some of the tepees measured 30 feet across.

Tepees were tilted cones. They leaned a little toward the front, so their backs were steeper. This put the smoke hole a little closer to the front. The smoke hole had two leather flaps, which looked like wings. One pole was placed inside each flap. The poles could be moved easily. They controlled the amount of air coming into the tepee and helped to take the smoke out.

Their cone shape and leather cover shed water well. In which sentence does the word shed have the same meaning?

- a. We store our bicycles in the old wooden shed.
- b. Maple trees shed their leaves in the fall.
- c. The dog shed fur all over the living room sofa.
- d. The umbrella shed rainwater away from the girl.
The First Day of Swim Class

It was the first day of summer, and I was having a terrific day until my mom told me that it was time to go to swim class. I had never learned how to swim so I was fearful of water, although swimming was something that I always wanted to do.

Sometimes, when I would see signs posted in school and around town for swim competitions, I wished I could participate.

The public pool wasn’t far, so we walked there. When the pool was in sight, I felt hesitant. Once inside the gates, my mom went to talk to the instructor while I waited.

“Hi, Trevor,” I heard a familiar voice exclaim. I turned around to see my friend Shay. “Are you taking a swimming class this summer?” he asked.

I slowly nodded.

“You’re going to love swimming! The instructor, Ms. Dennison, is a fantastic teacher,” he said.

“I hope so,” I replied uncertainly. Shay patted my shoulder as if he understood, and then he strode off, drying his hair with a towel.

Which events from the passage best show how Trevor feels before learning to float?

Choose two answers.

a. Trevor and his mom walk to the public pool together.

b. When Trevor sees the pool, he hesitates before going in the gates.

c. Trevor speaks to Shay about swimming lessons.

d. Trevor hopes that the class won’t have to get in the water right away.

e. Before getting in the water, the teacher has Trevor put on a life jacket.

f. Once in the pool, Trevor speaks to Isabel.
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f. Once in the pool, Trevor speaks to Isabel.
The next passage and poem are about making soup. Read the passage and answer questions 1 and 2.

Nail Soup

a folktale from Sweden

There was once a man who went plodding his way through a forest. The distance between the houses was so great that he had little hope of finding a shelter before the night set in. But all of a sudden he saw some lights between the trees. He then discovered a cottage, where there was a fire burning on the hearth. How nice it would be to roast one’s self before that fire, and to get a bite of something, he thought, and so he dragged himself towards the cottage.

Just then a woman came toward him.

“Good evening, and well met!” said the man.

“Good evening,” said the woman. “Where do you come from?”

“South of the sun and east of the moon,” said the man, “and now I am on the way home again, for I have been all over the world with the exception of this parish,” he said.

“You must be a great traveler, then,” said the woman. “What may be your business here?”

“Oh, I want a shelter for the night,” he said.

“I thought as much,” said the woman, “but you may as well get away from here at once, for my husband is not at home and my place is not an inn,” she said.

“My good woman,” said the man, “you must not be so cross and hard-hearted, for we are both human beings and should help one another, it is written.”

Part One

Which generalization can best be made from “Nail Soup”?

a. People who have friends to help them are the happiest.

b. It is best to find lodging on a trip before nighttime.

c. People who are persistent are more likely to reach their goals.

d. It is best to communicate openly so that issues can be resolved effectively.
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Part Two

Which sentence from “Nail Soup” best supports the answer in Part One? Choose one answer.

a. “But the man did not consider himself beaten at the first rebuff.”

b. “He did not need much pressing.”

c. “The woman stared with all her might.”

d. “She was quite awestruck at the man and his grand connections.”
Text-Dependent Analysis Item

Use the passage and the poem to answer questions 4 and 5.

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“Help one another?” said the woman. “I’ll bet you have never heard such a thing?”

The passage and the poem address a similar theme. Write an essay analyzing how the passage and the poem develop this theme. Use evidence from both the passage and the poem to support your response.
Writer’s Checklist for the Text-Dependent Analysis Question

PLAN before you write
- Make sure you read the question carefully.
- Make sure you have read the entire passage carefully.
- Think about how the question relates to the passage.
- Organize your ideas on scratch paper. Use a thought map, outline, or other graphic organizer to plan your essay.

FOCUS while you write
- Analyze the information from the passage as you write your essay.
- Make sure you use evidence from the passage to support your response.
- Use precise language, a variety of sentence types, and transitions in your essay.
- Organize your paper with an introduction, body, and conclusion.

PROOFREAD after you write
- I wrote my final essay in the response box.
- I stayed focused on answering the question.
- I used evidence from the passage to support my response.
- I corrected errors in capitalization, spelling, sentence formation, punctuation, and word choice.
A Rainbow Made of Stone

Rainbow Bridge in Utah is the world’s largest natural stone bridge. It stretches 270 feet across the gorge of Bridge Creek. It is almost 300 feet tall—about the same height as a ten-story building. The name of the bridge comes from its shape, not its color. The white sandstone bridge is an arch that almost perfectly matches the shape of a rainbow.

How Rainbow Bridge Was Formed

Although the climate is dry now, water sculpted this huge rock arch. Many years ago, inland seas left a thick layer of mud. Blowing sand covered the mud. Then sand dunes formed during a very dry period that lasted more than a million years. The dunes also were buried under even more sediment.

Layer after layer of sand, about a mile high, created pressure that cemented the grains of sand into stone. These layers of rock formed the Colorado Plateau. The land was relatively flat.

Scientific evidence suggests that forces within Earth began to push upward. The rock twisted and turned as mountains rose 3000 feet toward the sky. The climate changed too. Heavy rains dissolved the bonds holding grains of sandstone together. Snow melting from the mountains added to the erosion. Rushing water cut through the layers of rock and carved deep canyons.

Read the excerpt from the passage. Then, click on the two phrases in the excerpt that best show the challenges explorers faced in trying to find Rainbow Bridge.

Native Americans in the area have known about the bridge for hundreds of years. It is important to their culture. In 1907, a member of the Navajo tribe told explorers about a rock rainbow. The following year, the Wetherill brothers hired a guide to lead them through the rugged country. They wanted to see the wonder for themselves. However, they were unable to complete the journey after many of their supplies tumbled off a cliff.

Other explorers heard about the stone bridge. William Douglas and Byron Cummings tried to find it. They started late in the year but turned back due to deep snow in the mountains. However, the following year, they found Rainbow Bridge.
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Of Arthur’s Birth; and How He Became King

by Beatrice Clay

Long years ago, there ruled over Britain a king called Uther Pendragon. A mighty prince was he, and feared by all men; yet, when he sought the love of the fair Igraine of Cornwall, she would have naught to do with him, so that, from grief and disappointment, Uther fell sick, and at last seemed like to die.

Now in those days, there lived a famous magician named Merlin, so powerful that he could change his form at will, or even make himself invisible; nor was there any place so remote but that he could reach it at once, merely by wishing himself there. One day, suddenly he stood at Uther’s bedside, and said: “Sir King, I know thy grief, and am ready to help thee. Only promise to give me, at his birth, the son that shall be born to thee, and thou shalt have thy heart’s desire.” To this the king agreed joyfully, and Merlin kept his word: for he gave Uther the form of one whom Igraine had loved dearly, and so she took him willingly for her husband.

When the time had come that a child should be born to the King and Queen, Merlin appeared before Uther to remind him of his promise; and Uther swore it should be as he had said. Three days later, a prince was born, and, with pomp and ceremony, was christened by the name of Arthur; but immediately
Of Arthur’s Birth; and How He Became King

Long years ago, there was a mighty prince, and he was born in the castle of the fair Igraine of Cornwall, and named Arthur. His mother was sad and disappointed, but a wise prophet told her not to grieve, for her son would one day be King. Arthur was clever and strong, and he grew up to be a hero.

Now in those days, there was a king who was looking for a worthy heir to his throne. He knew that he could change his country and the world. He knew that there was a special place for a brave and wise king, and he chose Arthur as his successor. One day, a knight named Sir Ector and Sir Kay were sent to find a child who would be fit to rule. They found Arthur in a secret cave and brought him to the court of the king.

To this the king agreed, and Arthur became the heir to the throne. Arthur was a good and brave man, and he was loved by all who knew him. He was known as a wise and just leader, and he was respected by all. Arthur proved to be a great and noble king, and he ruled with honor and justice.

When the time had come for Arthur to be King, Merlin appeared before him and said, ‘Arthur should be as he had promised, and that is what he did. He was a true and noble King, and his name will live on in history for all time.’
Of Arthur's Birth; and How He Became King

Long years ago, there was a mighty prince of noble birth, Sir Kay, who had many sons, but one in particular was the most beloved. His name was Arthur, and he was fair and strong, and kind-hearted. One day, the prince learned that he could change the course of history and save the kingdom from an impending disaster. He knew that he must undertake a difficult quest to find the true heir to the throne.

Now in those days, there was a great tournament held in Camelot to honor the birthday of King Arthur. He was a just and wise ruler, and he had earned the love and respect of his people. The tournament was a time of great festivity and celebration, with knights from all over the land converging on the castle to test their skills and compete for glory.

To the king, the tournament was a way to strengthen his nation and maintain peace. He knew that he must choose the most worthy knight to carry on the legacy of his reign. And so, he challenged the assembled knights to prove themselves worthy of the honor.

When the time had come, the knight Sir Kay appeared before the king and presented him with a sword. The king was moved to tears by this act of kindness, for he knew that Sir Kay was a true friend and a loyal subject. He thanked the knight and promised to reward him for his service.

Arthur is helpful.
Arthur returns to the house to retrieve Sir Kay's sword.

Arthur is humble.
Arthur is surprised by the reaction of Sir Ector and Sir Kay after he pulls the sword from the stone.

Arthur is fit to rule.
Once he is made king, Arthur provides justice to all.
Well, that is the common thread that binds us to those Quakers [Puritans] on the tiny deck of the Arabella, to the beleaguered farmers and landowners signing the Declaration in Philadelphia in that hot Philadelphia hall, to Lincoln on a train ready to guide his people through the conflagration, to all the millions crowded in the steerage who passed this lady and wept at the sight of her, and those who've worked here in the scaffolding with their hands and with their love... and so many others.

We’re bound together because, like them, we too dare to hope—hope that our children will always find here the land of liberty in a land that is free. We dare to hope too that we’ll understand our work can never be truly done until every man, woman, and child shares in our gift, in our hope, and stands with us in the light of liberty—the light that, tonight, will shortly cast its glow upon her, as it has upon us for two centuries, keeping faith with a dream of long ago and guiding millions still to a future of peace and freedom.

excerpt from July 1, 2010 Remarks by President Barack Obama at American University School of International Service
Washington, D.C., 11:12 A.M. EDT

...we’ve always defined ourselves as a nation of immigrants—a nation that welcomes those willing to embrace America’s precepts. Indeed, it is this
Remarks and Dedication of the Statue of Liberty to President Roosevelt

July 3, 1886

... The iron workers from the construction of the Statue of Liberty, the craftsmen from France who labored on this monument under the supervision of their countrymen under the direction of their countrymen, Americans showed up on the piers to know each other—they must have had good eyes, too, did perspectives.

The Americans were not so much surprised that they were welcomed to these shores, because they were shopkeepers and children living in a town called New York. They were the children of immigrants who had settled in Lower Manhattan.

Many immigrants settled in Lower Manhattan.

Those who come to America often start businesses.

Emma Lazarus imagined a statue welcoming people to America.

Immigrants endure great hardship to come to the United States.

The world is much more connected today than it was.

Evidence:

Claim 1: Immigrants are good for America’s economy.

Claim 2: America is a place of hope and freedom.
Remarks at the Dedication of the Statue of Liberty, New York, July 3, 1986

... The iron workers from Pennsylvania, the craftsmen from France and Italy, the carpenters from New England, his countrymen and officers of all nations who restored the statue, Americans showed up in force, not only to admire it and to know each other—they also knew, like the President, that we all, too, did perspectives.

The Americans were not only accomplished merchants, but they were also welcomed to these shores by the French, who would be shopkeepers and children and grew up together with them here. They were the same people in their own pockets and from their own homes, Monsieur Wiart, for example, a French town, but for the task of construction, it was also the French town... and then we are in the United States.

Claim 1: Immigrants are good for America’s economy.
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Claim 2: America is a place of hope and freedom.
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The First Day of Swim Class

It was the first day of summer, and I was having a terrific day until my mom told me that it was time to go to swim class. I had never learned how to swim so I was fearful of water, although swimming was something that I always wanted to do.

Sometimes, when I would see signs posted in school and around town for swim competitions, I wished I could participate.

The public pool wasn’t far, so we walked there. When the pool was in sight, I felt hesitant. Once inside the gates, my mom went to talk to the instructor while I waited.

“Hi, Trevor,” I heard a familiar voice exclaim. I turned around to see my friend Shay. “Are you taking a swimming class this summer?” he asked.

I slowly nodded.

“You’re going to love swimming! The instructor, Ms. Dennison, is a fantastic teacher,” he said.

“I hope so,” I replied uncertainly. Shay patted my shoulder as if he understood, and then he strode off, drying his hair with a towel.

Read the dictionary definition. Then, read the sentences from the passage.

(n.) a good feeling about being able to do something

Click on the word that most closely matches the definition.

“Before you know it, we’ll be swimming across the pool!” added Isabel. I guess she felt her confidence growing just like I did.
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A Few New Neighbors
by Kerry McGee

One afternoon, Jessie spotted a tiny bird fluttering around Mrs. Baxter’s front door. Mrs. Baxter had just moved into an apartment.

It’s probably looking for somebody to fill the bird feeders, Jessie thought.

The bird perched on the edge of the wreath. Then it disappeared.

Disappeared? Jessie ran over to Mrs. Baxter’s door. Where had it gone?

A jumble of sticks and grass stuck out from the middle of the wreath. Suddenly, Jessie understood. A nest! A bird’s nest sat right in the middle of Mrs. Baxter’s wreath. The bird poked its head out and looked at Jessie. Then it fluttered away.

Jessie crept up to the front door. Tucked inside the nest were four speckled blue eggs.

Jessie ran home to call Mrs. Baxter. “Guess who moved into your old wreath!” Jessie said. “A family of birds!”

Mrs. Baxter sounded just as excited as Jessie was. “Tell me what they look like. What color are the eggs?”

Jessie and Mrs. Baxter talked about the birds for a while. “They sound like house finches,” Mrs. Baxter said. “Keep an eye on them for me, will you?”

“I will,” Jessie said.

Arrange the events from the passage in the order in which they happen. Click on the sentences to drag them into the correct locations.

- Jessie saw four speckled blue eggs in the nest.
- The movers arrive to remove Mrs. Baxter’s belongings.
- Jessie calls Mrs. Baxter to tell her about the nest.
- Jessie unlocked the side door to Mrs. Baxter’s house.
- Mrs. Baxter moved from her house into an apartment.
Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

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Think about a store where you go.

This could be any type of store. Each is set up or arranged in its own way.

Write an essay describing this store using sensory details so that someone who has never been there could picture it.
Lars is finding different types of minerals. The table below shows how many minerals he finds:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Mineral</th>
<th>Number Found</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K-spar</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mica</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quartz</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zinc</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Make a bar graph showing the total number of each kind of mineral Lars finds.
Lars is finding different types of minerals. The table below shows how many minerals he finds.

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Make a bar graph showing the total number of each kind of mineral Lars finds.
Use the protractor tool to measure the angles between the branches shown. Write each angle measure in the box below it.
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| 40 degrees |
| 130 degrees |
Ms. Erickson has a clock with a circular face in her classroom. The circumference of the clock face is 44 centimeters.

What is the area of the clock face rounded to the nearest tenth of a square centimeter?
Ms. Erickson has a clock with a circular face in her classroom. The circumference of the clock face is 44 centimeters.

What is the area of the clock face rounded to the nearest tenth of a square centimeter?
Annabelle is deciding which summer gym membership to purchase.

• Gym 1 charges $60 to join and $5 for each week.
• Gym 2 charges $40 to join and $9 for each week.

Graph lines to show the total cost of each gym on the coordinate plane. Plot a point on the graph where both gyms cost the same amount.
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