

## Reading Work Sample Practice Tasks Information and Instructions

At this site you will find **Reading Work Sample Practice Tasks** which can be downloaded and printed for your students to use in practicing for Essential Skill opportunities.

The **main purpose** of the **Reading Work Sample** is to **provide high school students with an additional option for demonstrating proficiency in the Essential Skill of reading**. Of course, Reading Work Samples are also an excellent instructional tool. Before completing a **Reading Work Sample** for the purpose of demonstrating reading proficiency for an Oregon high school diploma, most students will have attempted the Smarter Balanced English Language Arts Assessment.

The **Reading Work Sample** targets students who have high school level reading skills, but for whatever reason, are not demonstrating those skills successfully on the SB assessment. Typically, these students score within 30 or 40 points of the 2515 cut score for the Reading Claim on the SB ELA test. In general, students who are significantly below the cut score of 2515 on the assessment will need additional instruction and practice in reading skills rather than an alternate, but equally rigorous, assessment format.

### The practice tasks are as follows:

Task #	Task Type	Task Title	Topic/Interest	Difficulty Level	Length of Task
S-1	Literary—Poem	Ex-Basketball Player	John Updike’s classic poem about a now grown star basketball player who never equals his high school success	Medium No Lexile for Poems Free Verse	Short 4 stanzas
S-2	Informational	Exercising Options	A pair of passages dealing with the importance of exercise in maintaining good health	Medium 1080 Lexile Magazine Articles (2)	1160 words
S-3	Informational	Are We Addicted to Smart Phones?	An exploration of how dependent we have become on carrying our smart phones	Challenging 1400 Magazine Article	1100 words
S-4	Literary – Story	Fear in the Swamp	A selection from the novel <i>Freckles</i> , the story of a 20-year-old city boy who faces the fears of a job as a guard in a swamp	Medium/Easy 1010 Lexile Narrative	975 words

### Additional Practice Tasks

The tasks in the table below and on the next page were developed in 2008-2009. However, since the scoring guide and scoring expectations have not changed since that time, these may still be used for practice.

To help calibrate raters, student work in response to some of these tasks has been scored and posted for use at the local level to use in training activities. See the last page of this document for the web location.

Task #	Task Type	Task Title	Topic/Interest	Difficulty Level	Length of Task
P-1	Informational	A Gold Mine of a Fish	A Portland State University professor researches an unusual fish to find possible cures for cancer and heart disease	Challenging 1260 Lexile Technical Vocabulary	1300 words
P-2	Informational	Finding Strength on the Mat	A Reynolds middle school student with disabilities participates in wrestling	Easy 830 Lexile Newspaper article	1000 words
P-3	Informational	How do Dogs Perceive Time?	An exploration of how dogs and other animals understand time and have memories	Medium 1070 Lexile Some technical terms	1300 words
P-4	Literary – story	Buck Leads the Team	Selection from <i>The Call of the Wild</i> where Buck asserts himself as the new leader of the sled team	Medium/Easy 1060 Lexile Narrative	960 words
P-5	Literary – poem	To Those Boarding Planes	Poem by Portland author describing a rainy scene	Medium No Lexile for Poems Free Verse	Short 1 stanza

**Practice Tasks released following the 2009 Field Test:**

Task #	Task Type	Task Title	Topic/Interest	Difficulty Level	Length of Task
F-1	Literary	Walking Hannah	An excerpt from Oregon author Diane Hammond's novel <u>Hannah's Dream</u> . This section describes an interaction between an old zookeeper, an elephant, and a young boy.	Medium 1120 Lexile	+1000 words
F-2	Literary	My Antonia	An excerpt from Willa Cather's novel describes the train journey of the narrator to Black Hawk, South Dakota.	Medium 980 Lexile	1190 words
F-3	Informational	Mammoth Molar	A newspaper article about 2 boys who find a fossil in the South Yamhill River.	Easy 930 Lexile High interest	850 words
F-4	Literary – poem	I Remember	Poem in which narrator ponders differences in childhood view of the world and present day.	Medium/difficult No Lexile for poetry Rhymed verse	4 stanzas
F-5	Informational	American Honeybees	Newspaper article about die-off of bee colonies and the effect on the American diet.	Medium/difficult 1460 Lexile	~500 words
F-6	Informational	Robotics	Article from Oregonian about a high school robotics competition involving several Oregon high schools.	Medium 1000 Lexile High interest	~750 words

**Use of the Practice Tasks:**

Teachers may wish to use some **Reading Work Sample Practice Tasks** for instructional purposes or for whole class practice activities. Therefore, the practice activities provided here cover a wide range of reading levels and interest areas.

Practice Tasks may also be used with individuals or classes to prepare for a work sample assessment. Because these tasks are provided statewide and are available to the public as well as to school districts, they are **not** recommended for use as secure work sample assessments.

**Task Administration Guidelines:**

- Tasks are generally designed to be completed in about 90 minutes (1 or 2 class sessions); however, teachers may use their discretion – some tasks may be more time-consuming than others. Ideally, individual students who are continuing to work on the tasks and are making progress should be allowed additional time.
- The practice tasks may be used for **instructional purposes** or **classroom assessment**. Students who are unfamiliar with margin notes may need some introduction to the concept before attempting a task.
- Copyright has been granted to reprint the reading selections within the state of Oregon for instructional and assessment purposes.

**Scoring Guidelines:**

- A copy of the Official Oregon Reading Scoring Guide is available on the ODE Scoring Guides web page: <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=32>
- When using these tasks as practice, teachers may choose to apply the Scoring Guide as they understand it, or to use a grading system of their own devising to score the student products. Those who are scoring work sample tasks for Essential Skills documentation must be trained and calibrated in the use of the Official Reading Scoring guide.
- If using the Scoring Guide, all student responses are considered in an holistic decision about each trait: Demonstrate Understanding, Develop An Interpretation, and Analyze Text. This means that margin notes and responses to all questions, whether directed at a particular trait or not, are considered when awarding a score for each trait.
- Analyze Text has two sections, one to be applied to responses to informative text and one for literary text. Scored student work with commentary has been posted to clarify expectations for student performance. These are posted at: <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=515>.
- Training materials for using the Oregon Reading Scoring Guide and for developing local reading tasks have been posted on the ODE website: <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=2703>.