New England Common Assessment Program

Student Work Samples 2013

Grade 8

Writing

⓫ I am absolutley positive that athletes of all kinds, especially those that are professionals have a responsibility to set a good example for young people. The main reason I feel this way is due to the fact that many kids and teenagers want to pursue a sports career, and look up to professional athletes tremendously. In their eyes, that athlete represents that sport and a career in that field. Why, I myself look up to some professional Showjumping champions. But I realize that they're human, and they make mistakes and that they can't control every aspect of competition. However, not every young person may think about that. They might think that athlete is perfect, which is why professionals have a responsibility to set a good example.

⓫ Alot of yung kids find professional athletes as role
rudels. I do believe that athletes should set a good exorde
for kids when on the field and off the field. I
think this because people like myself are always
watching professional athletes to see and learn
what they do. Especially when your an athlete.
So it is imperative that the players set a good
example by not taking steroids or anything like
that. For example, players such as Barry Bonds
and Jason Giambi were very good baseball players
and alot of people idolized them. But they then
tested positive for steriod use. Alot of young kids were
affected by that. Sure people would say they don't have
to set a good exorde. They say this because they
think that kids should not care about what happens
to professional athletes outside of sports. But when you
idolize a player alot. It is hard to do. In conclusion
I believe that professional athletes should set a good
example for kids because then the kids will have a better
chance of succeeding in their sports career and off the field as well

⓫ I think that it is very important for professional athletes to be good role models. Kids growing up dream of being in the MLB, NFL of the NBA. They want to be like the best player, no matter what sports. Not all athletes set good role models, some do drugs, bet on games of are just bad. Some kids might get the impression it is okay to use steriods. That is only because their favorite player did it. This could put the wrong idea in millions of kids heads. Is it okay? That is why they are under pressure to try to be a good role model. Those who take steriods are setting a horrible example, while those who stay clean can be called a true role model.

⓫ Yes, I do think that they have a responsibility to set a good example. I belive this because "young people" will look up to them, and the athletes should expect to be looked at as a role model. For example, a young boy wants to be a football player. Well if their favorite player is Tom Brady and then the boy finds out that Tom Brady did something bad then if the boy wants to be just like Tom the boy may do Something bad too. Athletes know when they signed up for it that they would be role models. It is a part of the job. It is their responsibility to set a good example.

⓫ I think that professional athletes should set a good example because if they do drugs and all that stuff and they are young peaples role models those young people are going to be more likely to do that stuff that they are doing. so that is why they should just try to be a good role model.

⓫ Yes I think that professional athletes have a responsibility to set a good example for young people because, if the professional athletes showes something bad to the young people. The young people would do the same thing, but they would say that I saw my haverit athlet doing it and, I though that it would be a great idea to do it to.

⓫ I think that professional athletes are nice and caring well most of them some are evil to others.

⓫ I think that athletes should and should not set an example for children because some athletes get in trouble with the law and some dont.

11 Athletes means sposts. role models means great. argumenxs means sasing.

12 Ann Bancroft had a childhood of adventure and discovery that is probably what led her to become an explorer. She said that she always loved the outdoors which is good since you can't explore too many things inside. Her mom was also a big part of her childhood because she was always incouraging her to "Do her best", and "Give it a try." when she was young she liked to climb bookcases, build rafts, and pretend to be a pirate, all those things could have had an impact on Ann becoming an explorer. Since Ann Bancroft was one of the four American woman who skied to the South Pole pulling a sled, this could have been because when she was young she liked to go outside during blizzards and pretend that she was somewhere in the world pulling a sled. All these things from he childhood could have helped her decide her carrer as an explorer now.

⓬ Ann Brancroft's childhood experiences helped her choose her career as an explorer because she was pretty much training for the job, whether she knew it or not. For instance, Ann climbed bookcases, which is like training for climbing trees or anything steep. She prepared and got used to the cold, by walking in the deep, fresh snow, and pulling a sled. Ann pretended to be a pirate on the seas while she went canoeing, which could help her imagine toughness at sea. She also read books about other explorers and their journeys, which may have also helped her make her pick of becoming an explorer. Her most beneficial activity, however, would probably be walking in the snow during snowstorms, because both times she made history were in cold, snowy weather.

⓬ The great explorer, Ann Bancroft, has always loved the outdoors and going on adventures. Starting very young, she would climb bookcases, build rafts and pretend to be a pirate on the high seas while canoeing. At the age of ten, she most of all loved going outside during a blizzard-like storm. Pretending to be in a remote part of the world made Ann who she is today. These experiences made her choose to become an explorer.

⓬ Ann Bancroft's childhood was full of adventure. In the passage it said that she would climb bookcases and go out in snow storms. I think it also helped that her mom was so supportive. If her mom didn't let her branch out and try new things, then she would probably not be were she is today. I think that an explorer is a perfect career for her because she loved adventure. In the passage it said that she loved reading adventure books and would pretend that she was a pirate while canoeing. I think without her childhood experiences the she wouldn't be an explorer.

⓬ Ann Bancoft's childhood helped here become an explorer because he mother encoreged here to do what she loved and pretend she was an explorer. Ann Bansoft's mother would always say go ahead and try - you might get what you wante thats how Ann Bancoft's childhood helped her get the career she wanted.

⓬ Ann Bancroft's Childhood experences helped her choose her Career as an explorer, by her mom ifluenced her to be adventureous. Her mother made her read "The Red Pony" and "Rascal" which inveves two adventurous girls.

⓬ she spend her child hood acting in the snow. Reading books about animals. she love the out doors. she build Raft and pertend to be. a great

⓬ she loved the outdoors when she was a kid. She wanted to be like her mother and fofill her dream

⓭ If you decide to vacation in Boston, Massachusetts there are plenty of things to do and places to visit. One huge attraction is the New England Aquarium. This huge structure is visited by 1.3 million people every year. Tourists can see fish, birds, and sea mammals in this world of water, consisting of a monumental, multi-story cylindrical fish tank, and smaller exhibits surrounding it.

Another place to visit is the Public Garden. With 57 flowerbeds and 750 trees and shrubs, this can be a serene place to relax. Visitors can also ride on famous paddleboats shaped like swans.

When people think of Boston, they think of American History. Ben Franklin's birthplace, the house of Paul Revere, and Bunker Hill Monument are all located here and open for tours.

Finally, tourists can travel to the 60th floor of the John Hancock Tower to see sweeping views of the whole city, or see mummies and modern art in the Museum of Fine Arts. A trip to Boston will never be boring!

⓭ There are many great places a tourist could visit while in Boston. One of the best places to go is the New England Aquarium. It features exhibits of sea mammals, marine birds, and fish and can provide entertainment for hours. Another great activity is walking the Freedom Trail. Boston is jam-packed with history, and this path will take you throughout the city, stopping at places like the Paul Revere House. Boston is also home to many great sports teams. Head to a basketball, football, or hockey game and you're sure to meet tons of enthusiastic fans and have loads of fun! If you're looking for a quieter destination, be sure to head to the Public Garden. It has 57 flower beds, 750 trees and shrubs, and the famous swan boats. Another quiet spot is the Museum of Fine Art, which has colections anywhere from modern art to ancient mummies. Boston is a great destination that certainly has something for everyone.

⓭ There are many Places a tourist can visit in Boston, here are a few examples of them. One example is the Museum of Fine Arts. It has alot of collection ranges from ancient mummies to modern art, tourist from all over the world can go there and find ancient collection from way back when. another Place where a tourist can visit in Boston is the New England Aquarium. Theres alot of exhibits of sea mammals, like marine birds and fish, visited by over 1.3 million people a year. Lastly, the Public Garden can be a great Place for tourist to visit. The Public Garden has 57 flower bed, 750 trees and shrubs, and famous swan-shaped paddleboats. There are so many interesting Places tourist can visit.

⓭ If your a tourist looking to vist Boston, there's a lot of fun places you can go! One is the Museum of fine arts, which is a collection of art from mumies to modern art. Also, there is a lot of different early American historical places you can vist, including Revere House, Bunker Hill Monument, and even Benjamin Franklin's birthplace. You may also want to vist the beautiful Public garden, with flower beds, trees, shurbs, and their swan-shaped paddle boats. You can also vist the John Hancock Tower, which is the tallest skyscraper in new England. And last, but not least, you can vist the New England Aquarium-with exhibits of sea mammals, marine birds, and fish.

⓭ When tourist would have many things to do in Boston. They could visit historic land marks like bunker hill, or even modern land marks like the John Hancock Tower, the tallest one in New England. They could visit fine arts museums and the Public Garden. or stop In at the TD Banknorth Garden for a Celtics game or fenway park for a Red Sox game.

⓭

A place that a tourist would vist is the Jhon hancock tower the tallest Sky scraper in new england because that would be preaty cool to vist the talest Sky scrape in new england. Another place that a tourist would vist is the Paul revere house and bunker hill monument. Also they would vist the championship professinol Sports team and enthusiastic fans.

⓭ There are many places to visit in the boston area. You can visit our sports teams and go to nuesems. You can go see our buildings and statues. There is alot to do around boston.

13 A tourist could vist the coast of Boston because it is very nice and pretty down there. Also another place they could visit is all of the baseball fields that are down in Boston massachusetts.

⓭ There are a lot of things to do in Boston.

14

As I read this passage The Cliff, it was more than a story: it was an experience that was described so effectivly, I felt like I was there. Not only did the author make Anna and Egle's climb scary and suspenseful, he also made the hike sound incredibly challenging. The author used several ideas that made the climb a challenge: the thought that the cliff was slippery, the way the cliff was sheer, and the part where Anna almost fell off

The first way the author made the climb seem like a difficult act, was how he described the cliff as slippery. It is a known fact that when rock is wet, it is more dangerous than ever to climb, so that boosted the challenging factor by a lot. Also, not only does water make a climb more difficult, it's also cold, and after a long time climbing, it sort of numbs the fingers, so that they're quite unaffective to climb with. Thirdly, having small waterfalls flowing from the cliff puts a lot of restraints on places to grip, because when the rocks and crannies that would make easy places to grab onto have water flowing out of them, it makes these spots sort of off limits. The author did a great job elaborating on the difficulty of the climb, by making something as simple as water seem terrifying.

In addition, another technique the author used to make Anna's climb a challenge was by describing the cliff as sheer Sheer rock is especially hard to climb because it's a vertical slope, and along the way, Anna would have no time to stop, rest, or even turn around, since the rock was so steep and sheer Also, the fact that the cliff consisted of no plantlife other than moss growing near the streams, made it incredibly challenging because theic were no trees or vegitation to grab on to if Anna slipped and was about to fall. Finally, climbing sheer rock would be so intimidating, because anytime Anna would look up, she'd see nothing but vertical rock, and sky. The use of sheer rock left me terrified, and made the hike even more challenging than ever

Finally, at the climax of the story, when Anna almost slipped, the difficulty of the hike seemed almost impossible to overcome. First off, when Anna slipped, she had nowhere to put her feet, and she was barely hanging on with her already numb fingers, she seemed helpless, but she got her way out. Also, the readers have to wonder what Anna was thinking then, and if she lost hope, the difficulty to keep going was probably more overwhelming than ever before Last of all, how terrified must she have been if she hadnt have found

that ledge, and it seemed the only way out was down? Even at a time when all hope seemed lost, Anna overcame the challenge.

To conclude, the three techniques the author used to make the cliff hike seem challenging were describing the rock as sheer, making the cliff slippery, and the many things that happened when Anna slipped. This small passage teaches to not give up, no matter how ridiculously difficult the situation may seem. If we all can express the kind of determination Anna held in her, we can climb over the rough spots, and continue our journeys of life.

14 Have you ever done something challenging? Something that took a lot of effort and courage, but in the end you are glad that you did it? Thats how a girl named Anna feels in the story "The Cliff" by T.A. Barron. Anna has to climb a cliff with her pet sparrow named Eagle, and even though it is a difficult climb, she makes it to the top. The author makes the cliff climb seem challenging by describing how the cliff is slippery, making it hard for Anna to reach a ledge, and having a piece of rock break off the cliff.

One way the author makes the climb seem challenging is that they say the cliff is slippery. As Anna walks towards the cliff, she notices that not only is it taller than she thought, but she also sees water trickeling out of the cracks and it flowed down the cliff, making it very shiny and slippery. That would be challenging because it would be hard to cling on to the rock if it was slippery.

Another way that the author makes the climb up the cliff seem challenging is at one point, it is very hard for Anna to reach a ledge. As Anna makes the climb up, she is climbing up a crack that goes up the cliff by putting her toes in the crack. But as she gets closer to the top, the crack comes to an end. She sees a thin ledge, but she can't reach it with

her hands, so she tries to have her feet reach it. She lifted up her leg to the ledge, and her big toe caught it. That would make the climb seem challenging because after she realized that her hand couldn't reach it, she probably panicked a little, and also, it is much harder to reach something with your feet than with your hands.

The last way that the author made the climb seem challenging was that a piece of the cliff breaks off. Right after Anna got her toe to reach the ledge, the lip of the rock broke off, almost making her slip. So she steadied herself, then swung her leg to reach a lower spot on the ledge, and she caught it and then made her way to the top. This could be challenging because she almost slipped so that probably made her nervous, but also because she could have made it if the piece of the cliff didn't break off.

As you can see, the author made the climb up the cliff seem challenging by describing how the cliff is slippery from water, making it hard for Anna to reach a ledge, and having a piece of rock break off of the cliff. Anna was very brave to climb up the cliff, and even when it got difficult

she kept going and going. If I were Anna, I probably wouldn't have climbed up the cliff because I am scared of heights, but if I were to climb up the cliff and have to face the challenges that she faced, I would have been scared, and I might not have kept going like she did. "The Cliff" by T. A. Barron was a great story that taught me if you set your mind to something, you can do it.

14

The Author makes the climb up the cliff seem challenging in several ways. The first way is that the author gives lots of details. For example, the way the author said "Anna shook a drop of sweat off her nose". The author stalls a lot to make you think that the climb is more challenging. When there are a lot of details, it takes longer to read, so you build up with suspense. When you build up with suspense, it makes the characters seem like they are doing a lot, even if they are just starting to climb a cliff. That is one way that the author makes the cliff seem challenging.

Another thing that made the cliff seem challenging was the part where Anna's foot slipped. It says in the passage, "She wrapped [her toe] around the outcropping, braced herself, and- the lip of the rock broke off!" That, and the few seconds before it, were key to the story. The first thing that pops into everyone's head when they read that part is "Does she fall?

Does she hang on? Will she live? Does she die?" This makes climbing that cliff seem very scary and challenging.

A few seconds before the part where Annas foot slips is very important to making the cliff seem challenging, too. When she doesn't have any other option but to swing her leg up, hanging on by only her hands, and try to catch a ledge and pull herself up. That part makes you hope that she is able to swing her leg up instead of falling and possibly dieing. So, the rising action of the story was very important to make the cliff seem challenging.

The end of the passage, when Anna stood safely on top, helped the cliff seem challenging. The way it says "...and stood at the top safely" sets the mood at the end. I can see a picture of a girl standing at the edge of a cliff, looking down at it, thinking "wow. I just climbed that." So for me, the end makes me visualize the intensity of the cliff

that Anna just climbed. It makes the cliff seem impossible to climb. So all of the details in the passage form some great pictures in your mind to intensify the plot. Visuals are very important in creating a feeling in the story.

Those are several ways that the author makes the cliff seem challenging. Visuals, details, rising action, and the climax really pulled the story together to let you see how hard it would be to climb a cliff. The author did a great job in making the cliff seem challenging.

14 The author makes the climb up the cliff seem difficult in many ways throughout the passage. First, so the reader understands the difficulty of the climb, Anna notices that the "rock is very slippery" and says, "Looks tough Eagle." This sets the scene for the challenging climb ahead.

Next, the author describes Anna inching up the cliff. To show what little she has to "hold on to, the author says, "Sometimes she clung mostly to the rock itself, sometimes to the tufts of moss that sprouted from the watery seams, and sometimes, it seemed, to the very air." This quote illustrates how precarious the handholds that Anna has really are.

Later, as Anna is attempting to get ahold of an outcropping,

the author says, "The lip of the rock broke off! She almost fell." Anna then hears the pieces of rock tumble down the cliff. This climactic scene shows how risky each step is, and how dangerous a fall would be.

Finally, as Anna hieves herself to the top of the cliff, the passage says, "The muscles in her thighs ached terribly." This shows how strenuous the climb up the cliff is on Annas body.

These are a few of the ways that the author made the climb up the cliff seem difficult throughout the passage.

14 Making a story seem harder than it actually is maybe challenging, but there are many way you can do it. For example the author of 'The Cliff', T. A. Baron, wrote the story so that climbing the cliff seemed extreamly challenging. Some of the ways Baron did this was adding exclamations, describing the cliff in detail, and adding in what the main character, Ana was doing.

One of the ways the author made climbing a cliff seem difficult was by adding in exclamations. When reading exclamation marks readers know the author is trying to make something loud, big, or have lots of emotion. Some examples of the author using exclamatory words are "The Cliff itself!" or "Crab claws!" These things made the reader believe the cliff was challenging to climb Exclamatory words or phrases is just one way the author created the illusion that the cliff was challenging to climb.

Another way the author made the cliff seem challenging to climb was describing the cliff in detail. When telling about the cliff T.A Baron was very descriptive. Thoes discriptions make the reader think the cliff is larger than life. The author use discriptions like '... a deep crack that snaked its way up from the base.' These descriptions made the cliff seem challenging to climb.

Lastly, the author added in how Anna, the main character, was climbing the cliff. The way the author wrote about the things Anna was doing made the cliff seem chalenging to climb. Descriptions such as "She leaned out as fair as she dared..." and "...her hands dug deep into their hold..." Thoes descriptions help the create the illusion that the cliff was challenging to climb.

All in all, exclamations,

details about the cliff, and describing the main characters actions created an illusion that the cliff was hard to climb. How would you have made the cliff seem challenging to climb?

14

I think the author makes It challenging because it had tons of Parts in the story that said, for example it said, "Its very slippery". Another example It said, "She clung mostly to the rock itself, sometimes to the tufts of moss that sprouted from the watery steams". Befor she climbed the cliff she said "Looks tough" so she new It was going to be a challeng for her. In some Parts she said "she streched out her hand. Fatther... and farther ... no! Just out of reach. So that was a challeng because some spots she couldent reach. anther Part that made it challenging for her was, there was a dead end at one Part and that was challenging because you gotta find a new spot to get up. These are a lot of reasons why The auther made it challenging for ANNA to get up the cliff safly.

14 The author in this story made climb up the cliff very challenging. It was very challenging climbing the cliff because it was very steep. The girl didn't have any climbing equipment which made it even more challenging for her to climb the cliff. Also The girl was carrying a pet on her shoulders so it was more challenging. Next, there was water pouring out of the crackr of the rock which made it very slippery to climb. She could have easily slipped and fell off the cliff which would have been very bad. Then The girls mucles got very weak and it was hard for her to hold on to the ledge. finally, the rockr were far apart which made it hard to get to each ledge. So she had to leap from one to another rock. Another reason the cliff was difficult was because the rockr were very loose. When she tried to lean onto another rock it broke off and she almost fell. In Conclusion, the author made the cliff very challengin to climb and made it seem like you were in the story climbing the cliff.

14 The author made this climb feel chalerging by how the climb progresed. At first Anna came out of a bushy trail and saw the cliff. She progressed by climbing up the cliff by slipping on the rocks. She tried grabbing orto the edge but she couldn't get it. But she got it with her foot and almost fell when the edge fell off. But she did make it up.

14 The author makes Climbing up the Cliff challenging because he or she said that the rock was cold, damp, and slipery. Anna had to be cautious and shift her weight to the other ledge. They also make it seam painfull when they say that the rock scraped against her knees and elbows.

14 The girl and whatever the thing is on her shelder climb the cliff and some of the cliff broke off when she was climbing the cliff when some broke off of the cliff by the girl and her animal thing were still alive then they got to the top of the cliff.

⓮ The author make the climb up the cliff seem challenging is making a person climb up a cliff with her pet Eagle and it is hard to climb up a big cliff scraping her elbows and knees to stand on top of it. That is who you can challenge or body with out using on rope or nothing to climb up the cliff just using hre hands climing up the cliff.

14 The AUTher climb up the cliff
That climed mostly rock so
sometimes to the tufts of moss
it seemed very our of the ground
at wedged into the crack and
crept higher. the land grew
steadily steeper And dotted.
with a dark boulders
broken chunks of the cliff
a pproached and shook overhead
[illegible] leafly vines
the dagled from hem lock
and stepped.

Also the lip of rock broke off and drop Of sweet of her noise as broken Pieces clattered down she wrapped it around the outcropping. braced herself and the sprouted from the watery seams As She neared the top of the cliff as big crack came to sudden she dared and Scanned the face a thin ledge just to her righ couldn't reach. She strode over ce deep crack the snaked its way up From the base.

Cautiously she shifted he weight
to the edge her hands
searched for new hold as she
slid herself across the rocky
face cold, damp scraped against
her elbow and knees the
muscles in he thought a cheek
terribly made li Eagle d-
rums as her shouldel with
his foot. She tilted her
head and nuzzled him