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Grade 4 English Language Arts Item Specifications



The release of the updated FSA Test Item Specifications is intended to provide greater specificity for item writers in developing items to be field tested in 2016. The revisions in the specifications will NOT affect the Spring 2015 Florida Standards Assessments. The enhanced explanations, clarifications, and sample items should assist item writers and other stakeholders in understanding the Florida Standards and the various types of test items that can be developed to measure student proficiency in the applicable content areas for 2016 and beyond.

The draft Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) *Test Item Specifications* (*Specifications*) are based upon the Florida Standards and the Florida Course Descriptions as provided in <u>CPALMs</u>. The *Specifications* are a resource that defines the content and format of the test and test items for item writers and reviewers. Each grade-level and course *Specifications* document indicates the alignment of items with the Florida Standards. It also serves to provide all stakeholders with information about the scope and function of the FSA.

Item Specifications Definitions

Also assesses refers to the standard(s) closely related to the primary standard statement.

Reading stimulus guidelines and attributes describe the parameters for developing and selecting the texts students will read and to which items will be written.

Sample response mechanisms describe the characteristics of various methods for responding to test items.

Task demand describes various types of items that could be written for the standard(s) assessed.

Text types define the genre of texts to be used with the standard(s) assessed.

Florida Standards Assessment

Technology-Enhanced Item Descriptions

The Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) are composed of test items that include traditional multiple-choice items, items that require students to type or write a response, and technology-enhanced items (TEI). Technology-enhanced items are computer-delivered items that require students to interact with test content to select, construct, and/or support their answers.

Currently, there are eight types of TEIs that may appear on FSA ELA assessments. For Grades 3 and 4 assessments, which will be paper-based tests in 2014-2015, and for students with an IEP or 504 plan that specifies a paper-based accommodation, TEIs will be modified or replaced with test items that can be scanned and scored electronically.

The various TEI item types are described below, including the percentage of each computer-based test that will be composed of TEIs.

For samples of each of the item types described below, see the FSA Training Tests.

Percent of Computer-Based Test that is Composed of Technology-	
Enhanced Items	
Grades 5–10 ELA*	25%–50%

^{*}Grades 3 and 4 ELA tests, once computer based, will also be composed of 25%-50% TEIs.

Technology-Enhanced Item Types for English Language Arts

- 1. Editing Task Choice The student clicks a highlighted word or phrase, which reveals a drop-down menu containing options for correcting an error as well as the highlighted word or phrase as it is shown in the sentence to indicate that no correction is needed. The student then selects the correct word or phrase from the drop-down menu. For paper-based assessments, the item is modified so that it can be scanned and scored electronically. The student fills in a circle to indicate the correct word or phrase.
- 2. <u>Editing Task</u> The student clicks on a highlighted word or phrase that may be incorrect, which reveals a text box. The directions in the text box direct the student to replace the highlighted word or phrase with the correct word or phrase. For paper-based assessments, this item type will be replaced with another item type that assesses the same standard and can be scanned and scored electronically.

3. Hot Text -

a. <u>Selectable Hot Text</u> - Excerpted sentences from the text are presented in this item type. When the student hovers over certain words, phrases, or sentences, the options highlight. This indicates that the text is selectable ("hot"). The student can then click on an option to select it. These items may have one or two parts. In a two-part hot text item, Part A might ask the student to make an analysis or an inference, and Part B might require the student to use the text to support the answer in Part A.

In other cases, the two parts might function independently. For paper-based assessments, a "selectable" hot text item is modified so that it can be scanned and scored electronically. In this version, the student fills in a circle to indicate a selection.

- b. <u>Drag-and-Drop Hot Text</u> Certain words, phrases, or sentences may be designated "draggable" in this item type. When the student hovers over these areas, the text highlights. The student can then click on the option, hold down the mouse button, and drag it to a graphic organizer or other format. For paper-based assessments, drag-and-drop hot text items will be replaced with another item type that assesses the same standard and can be scanned and scored electronically.
- 4. <u>Open Response</u> The student uses the keyboard to enter a response into a text field. These items can usually be answered in a sentence or two. For paper-based assessments, this item type may be replaced with another item type that assesses the same standard and can be scanned and scored electronically.
- **5.** <u>Multiselect</u> The student is directed to select all of the correct answers from among a number of options. These items are different from multiple-choice items, which allow the student to select only one correct answer. These items appear in the online and paper- based assessments.
- **6.** Evidence-Based Selected Response (EBSR) In this two-part item, the student is directed to select the correct answers from Part A and Part B. Typically Part A is multiple-choice, whereas Part B may be either multiple-choice or multiselect. Part A often asks the student to make an analysis or an inference, and Part B requires the student to use the text to support the answer in Part A. These items appear in the online and paper-based assessments.
- 7. <u>Graphic Response Item Display (GRID)</u> In a GRID item, the student might select words, phrases, or images and use the drag-and-drop feature to place them into a graphic organizer or other format. For paper-based assessments, this item type may be replaced with another item type that assesses the same standard and can be scanned and scored electronically.
- **8.** <u>Multimedia</u> Technology-enhanced content may include multimedia elements such as audio clips, slideshows, or animations. Multimedia elements may appear within passages (stimuli) or test items. For paper-based assessments, multimedia content will be replaced by paper-based items or stimuli that assess the same reporting category.

Reading Stimuli Guidelines

Overall Description

A stimulus may consist of one or more texts. The texts may be informational or literary and may cover a wide array of topics. Multimedia elements may include audio presentations, slideshows, or graphical elements.

Stimulus Attributes

The complexity of the texts used as stimuli should be accessible for the applicable grade. Text complexity analysis incorporates a variety of factors. Quantitative measures are one element of text complexity evaluation, but they are not the sole determinant of grade-level appropriateness. Other factors, such as purpose, structure, and language complexity, are also considered. In choosing the text(s), qualitative and quantitative dimensions of text complexity must be balanced by the task considerations required of the reader. Graphics such as infographics, photographs, tables, and diagrams may be included with the stimuli. The graphics used, however, must be purposeful and should supplement the student's understanding of the topic. During the text review process, Florida educators use professional judgment and experience to determine whether the reading level of each selection is suitable for the grade level.

Texts used as stimuli should be interesting and appealing to students at the grades for which the selections are intended. They should be conceptually appropriate and relevant and should reflect literary or real-world settings and events that are interesting to students and not limited to classroom or school-related situations. Texts with controversial or offensive content should not be included. Confusing or emotionally charged subjects should also be avoided. References to trademarks, commercial products, and brand names should be checked by the contractor's legal department for permission to use. If there is any question about the accuracy of content, the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) may require at least two additional sources to verify the information in the text.

The length and complexity of texts should vary within each grade-level assessment. The table below suggests an approximate word count range for a text or text set.

Grade	Range of Number of Words
3	100-700
4	100–900
5	200-1000
6	200–1100
7	300–1100
8	350–1200
9	350–1300
10	350–1350

English Language Arts Florida Standards Grade: K12*

Strand LAFS.K12: Reading

Cluster 1 LAFS.K12.R.1: Key Ideas and Details

LAFS.K12.R.1.1

Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

LAFS.K12.R.1.2

Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

LAFS.K12.R.1.3

Analyze how and why individuals, events, or ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

Cluster 2 LAFS.K12.R.2: Craft and Structure

LAFS.K12.R.2.4

Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.

LAFS.K12.R.2.5

Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text (e.g., a section, chapter, scene, or stanza) relate to each other and the whole.

LAFS.K12.R.2.6

Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.

Cluster 3 LAFS.K12.R.3: Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

LAFS.K12.R.3.7

Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

LAFS.K12.R.3.8

Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence.

LAFS.K12.R.3.9

Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.

Cluster 4 LAFS.K12.R.4: Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

LAFS.K12.R.4.10

Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently.

Strand LAFS.K12.SL: Standards for Speaking and Listening

Cluster 1 LAFS.K12.SL.1: Comprehension and Collaboration

LAFS.K12.SL.1.1

Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

LAFS.K12.SL.1.2

Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

LAFS.K12.SL.1.3

Evaluate a speaker's point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric.

Cluster 2 LAFS.K12.SL.2: Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

LAFS.K12.SL.2.4

Present information, findings, and supporting evidence such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

LAFS.K12.SL.2.5

Make strategic use of digital media and visual displays of data to express information and enhance understanding of presentations.

LAFS.K12.SL.2.6

Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and communicative tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.

Strand LAFS.K12.W: Writing

Cluster 1 LAFS.K12.W.1: Text Types and Purposes

LAFS.K12.W.1.1

Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

LAFS.K12.W.1.2

Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

LAFS.K12.W.1.3

Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details and well-structured event sequences.

Cluster 2 LAFS.K12.W.2: Production and Distribution of Writing

LAFS.K12.W.2.4

Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

LAFS.K12.W.2.5

Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.

LAFS.K12.W.2.6

Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others.

Cluster 3 LAFS.K12.W.3: Research to Build and Present Knowledge

LAFS.K12.W.3.7

Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

LAFS.K12.W.3.8

Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, assess the credibility and accuracy of each source, and integrate the information while avoiding plagiarism.

LAFS.K12.W.3.9

Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

Cluster 4 LAFS.K12.W.4.10: Range of Writing

LAFS.K12.W.4.10

Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.

Strand LAFS.K12.L: Language Standards

Cluster 1 LAFS.K12.L.1: Conventions of Standard English

LAFS.K12.L.1.1

Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

LAFS.K12.L.1.2

Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

Cluster 2 LAFS.K12.L.2: Knowledge of Language

LAFS.K12.L.2.3

Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.

Cluster 3 LAFS.K12.L.3: Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

LAFS.K12.L.3.4

Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases by using context clues, analyzing meaningful word parts, and consulting general and specialized reference materials, as appropriate.

LAFS.K12.L.3.5

Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

LAFS.K12.L.3.6

Acquire and use accurately a range of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when encountering an unknown term important to comprehension or expression.

^{*}NOTE: For specific grade-level standards assessed within the English Language Arts Florida Standards Assessments (FSA), refer to the ELA Test Design Summary and Blueprint and the Test Item Specifications.

Content Standard(s) Assessed	LAFS.4.RL.1.1: Refer to details and examples in a text when
	explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing
	inferences from the text.
Assessment Limits	Items may ask the student to use details from the text to explain
	what the text says explicitly or implicitly. The item may require
	students to draw inferences from the text.
Text Types	The items assessing this standard may be used with one or more
	grade-appropriate literary texts. Texts may vary in complexity.
Response Mechanisms	The Technology-Enhanced Item Descriptions section on pages 3
	and 4 provides a list of Response Mechanisms that may be used to
	assess this standard (excluding the Editing Task Choice and Editing
	Task item types). The Sample Response Mechanisms may include,
	but are not limited to, the examples below.
Task Demand	Sample Response Mechanisms
Identify text-based support for a	Selectable Hot Text
statement about what the text	Requires the student to select words or phrases from the
says explicitly or implicitly.	text to answer questions about what the text says
	explicitly or implicitly.
	Requires the student to select a statement about what the
	text says explicitly or implicitly and then to select words or
	phrases to support the statement.
	EBSR
	Requires the student to select an inference about the text
	and then to select a detail or details from the text to
	support the inference.
	Multiple Choice
	Requires the student to select quotations or descriptions
	of textual evidence to support an explicit or implicit
	statement from the text.
	Multiselect
	Requires the student to select multiple details or
	quotations to support an explicit or implicit statement
	from the text.
	GRID
	Requires the student to drag words or phrases that
	support an explicit statement or an inference from the
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	text into appropriate areas of a graphic organizer.

Content Standard(s) Assessed	LAFS.4.RL.1.2: Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from
	details in the text; summarize the text.
Assessment Limits	Items may ask students to use details from a text to determine the
	theme. The theme may be explicitly or implicitly stated. Items may
	ask students to summarize the text as a whole or to identify key
	events as part of a summary.
Text Types	The items assessing this standard may be used with one or more
	grade-appropriate literary texts. Texts may vary in complexity.
Response Mechanisms	The Technology-Enhanced Item Descriptions section on pages 3 and
	4 provides a list of Response Mechanisms that may be used to
	assess this standard (excluding the Editing Task Choice and Editing
	Task item types). The Sample Response Mechanisms may include,
	but are not limited to, the examples below.
Task Demand	Sample Response Mechanisms
Determine a theme of a text.	Selectable Hot Text
	Requires the student to select the theme of the passage
	and then to choose textual evidence to support the
	answer.
	Multiple Choice
	Requires the student to select the theme of the passage.
	Open Response
	Requires the student to state the theme of a passage.
Provide a summary of the text.	Selectable Hot Text
·	Requires the student to select details from the text that
	are necessary for a summary.
	Drag-and-Drop Hot Text
	Requires the student to correctly place details from the
	text that are necessary for a summary in the correct order.
	Multiple Choice
	Requires the student to identify the correct summary of
	the text.
	Multiselect
	Requires the student to select multiple details from the
	text that are necessary for a summary.
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Content Standard(s) Assessed	LAFS.4.RL.1.3: Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a
Content Standard(s) Assessed	•
	story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a
	character's thoughts, words, or actions).
Assessment Limits	Items may ask students to use explicit and implicit details from the
	text to describe in depth a character, setting, or event. The item
	may require students to draw inferences from the text. Items
	should not focus on pure comprehension of details. Rather, the
	items should focus on how the details describe a character, setting,
	or event in depth.
Text Types	The items assessing this standard may be used with one or more
	grade-appropriate literary texts. Texts may vary in complexity.
Response Mechanisms	The Technology-Enhanced Item Descriptions section on pages 3 and
	4 provides a list of Response Mechanisms that may be used to
	assess this standard (excluding the Editing Task Choice and Editing
	Task item types). The Sample Response Mechanisms may include,
	but are not limited to, the examples below.
Task Demand	Sample Response Mechanisms
Interpret details from the text to	Selectable Hot Text
make a statement about a	 Requires the student to select a description of a character,
character, setting, or event.	setting, or event and to select a detail or details from the
	text to support that description.
	EBSR
	 Requires the student to select a description of a character,
	setting, or event and then select a detail or details from the
	text to support that description.
	Multiselect
	Requires the student to select multiple details from the text
	that support an inference about a character, setting, or
	event.
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	le 4 Reading Standards for Literature
Content Standard(s) Assessed	LAFS.4.RL.2.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they
	are used in a text, including those that allude to significant
	characters found in mythology (e.g., Herculean).
	LAFS.4.L.3.4: Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown or
	multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 4 reading and
	content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.
	a. Use context (e.g., definitions, examples, or restatements in text)
	as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.
	b. Use common, grade-appropriate Greek and Latin affixes and
	roots as clues to the meaning of a word (e.g., telegraph,
	photograph, autograph).
	LAFS.4.L.3.5: Demonstrate understanding of word relationships and nuances in word meanings.
	a. Explain the meaning of simple similes and metaphors (e.g., as
	pretty as a picture) in context.
	b. Recognize and explain the meaning of common idioms, adages,
	and proverbs.
	c. Demonstrate understanding of words by relating them to their
	opposites (antonyms) and to words with similar but not identical
	meanings (synonyms).
	Also assesses: LAFS.4.RF.3.3 and LAFS.4.RF.4.4.
Assessment Limits	Items may ask students to use the text to determine the meanings
	of words and phrases, especially those that allude to mythological
	characters. Items may ask students to use contextual clues or Greek
	and Latin affixes and roots to determine the meaning of a word.
	Items may ask students to explain the meaning of a simile or
	metaphor in the context of the text. Items may ask students to
	explain the meaning of common idioms, adages, and proverbs.
	Items may ask students to relate words to their antonyms and
	synonyms. Items should not exclusively ask the student to
	determine the meaning of basic, everyday words and phrases that
	commonly appear in spoken language.
Text Types	The items assessing this standard may be used with one or more
	grade-appropriate literary texts. Texts may vary in complexity.
Response Mechanisms	The Technology-Enhanced Item Descriptions section on pages 3 and
	4 provides a list of Response Mechanisms that may be used to
	assess this standard (excluding the Editing Task Choice and Editing
	Task item types). The Sample Response Mechanisms may include,
	rask item types). The sample kesponse wechanisms may include,
	but are not limited to, the examples below.

Task Demand	Sample Response Mechanisms
Determine the meaning of a word	Selectable Hot Text
or phrase by using context clues.	 Requires the student to select details from the text that show the meaning of a word or phrase used in the text. EBSR
	 Requires the student to select a meaning of a word or phrase and then to select details from the text that support that meaning.
	Multiselect
	 Requires the student to correctly identify multiple words or phrases that illustrate the meaning of a word in the text.
Determine the meaning of a word	Multiple Choice
or phrase using grade-appropriate Greek and Latin roots or affixes.	 Requires the student to select the correct meaning of a word from the text that contains a Greek or Latin root or affix.
	Open Response
	 Requires the student to explain the meaning of a word from the text that contains a Greek or Latin affix or root.
Explain the meaning of a simile or	Selectable Hot Text
metaphor in the context of the text.	Requires the student to select words or phrases that illustrate the meaning of a simile or metaphor.
	 Multiple Choice Requires the student to select an explanation of a simile or metaphor found in the text.
	Multiselect
	 Requires the student to select multiple words or phrases that contribute to an explanation of a simile or metaphor found in the text.
Explain the meaning of common	Multiple Choice
idioms, adages, and proverbs found in the text.	 Requires the student to select an explanation of an idiom, adage, or proverb found in the text.
	Multiselect
	 Requires the student to select multiple words or phrases that contribute to an explanation of an idiom, adage, or proverb found in the text.

Task Demand	Sample Response Mechanisms
Relate words to their antonyms	Selectable Hot Text
and synonyms.	 Requires the student to select a word or words from the text that are antonyms or synonyms to a specific word from the text.
	Drag-and-Drop Hot Text
	 Requires the student to correctly place words in a chart to show their antonym or synonym relationship to a specific word from the text.
	Multiple Choice
	 Requires the student to select an antonym or synonym to a specific word from the text.
	Multiselect
	 Requires the student to select multiple words that function as antonyms or synonyms to a specific word from the text.

Grade 4 Redaing Standards for Electature		
Content Standard(s) Assessed	LAFS.4.RL.2.5: Explain major differences between poems, drama, and prose, and refer to structural elements of poems (e.g., verse, rhythm, meter) and drama (e.g., casts of characters, settings, descriptions, dialogue, stage directions) when writing or speaking about texts.	
Assessment Limits	Items may ask students to refer to structural elements when contrasting different types of literary texts. Items should ask about specific text sets and should not ask about only one type of literary text.	
Text Types	The items assessing this standard may be used with two or more grade-appropriate literary texts. Texts may vary in complexity.	
Response Mechanisms	The Technology-Enhanced Item Descriptions section on pages 3 and 4 provides a list of Response Mechanisms that may be used to assess this standard (excluding the Editing Task Choice and Editing Task item types). The Sample Response Mechanisms may include, but are not limited to, the examples below.	
Task Demand	Sample Response Mechanisms	
Contrast two or more literary texts to analyze how their structural elements make them different.	Requires the student to select a description of the difference or differences between two or more texts and then to select words or phrases from the text that show the difference from another text. Multiple Choice Requires the student to select a description of the difference or differences between the structures of two or more texts. GRID	
	Requires the student to place structural elements of a text into a graphic organizer, such as a Venn Diagram.	

Content Standard(s) Assessed	LAFS.4.RL.2.6: Compare and contrast the point of view from which different stories are narrated, including the difference between
	first- and third-person narrations.
Assessment Limits	Items may ask students to compare and/or contrast the points of
	view in two or more texts. Items may ask students to explain
	differences between first- and third-person points of view. Items
	should not ask about a singular literary text and should be used
	with text sets.
Text Types	The items assessing this standard may be used with two or more
	grade-appropriate literary texts. Texts may vary in complexity.
Response Mechanisms	The Technology-Enhanced Item Descriptions section on pages 3 and
	4 provides a list of Response Mechanisms that may be used to
	assess this standard (excluding the Editing Task Choice and Editing
	Task item types). The Sample Response Mechanisms may include,
	but are not limited to, the examples below.
Task Demand	Sample Response Mechanisms
Describe similarities and/or	EBSR
differences in the points of view or	Requires the student to select a description of the
the narration of two or more texts.	similarities or differences between the points of view in
	two texts and then to select words or phrases from the text
	that support that description.
	Multiple Choice
	Requires the student to select similarities and differences
	between the points of view of multiple texts.
	Multiselect
	Requires the student to select multiple similarities or
	differences between the points of view of multiple texts.

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Content Standard(s) Assessed	LAFS.4.RL.3.7: Make connections between the text of a story or drama and a visual or oral presentation of the text, identifying where each version reflects specific descriptions and directions in the text. Also assesses: LAFS.4.SL.1.2: Paraphrase portions of a text read aloud or information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.
Assessment Limits	Items may ask students to make connections between two versions of a story. Items may ask students to identify details to discuss how the presentation draws on the original text. Items should not ask about a singular literary text and should be used with a pairing of a text and an oral/visual presentation of that text. Items may ask the student to paraphrase portions of text read aloud or presented in a multimedia format. Written transcripts, excerpts, and/or direct quotations from an audio clip should not be provided in item stems or answer options.
Text Types	The items assessing this standard may be used with two or more grade-appropriate literary texts. Passages may consist of text, visuals, multimedia, or audio presentations. Texts may vary in complexity.
Response Mechanisms	The Technology-Enhanced Item Descriptions section on pages 3 and 4 provides a list of Response Mechanisms that may be used to assess this standard (excluding the Editing Task Choice and Editing Task item types). The Sample Response Mechanisms may include, but are not limited to, the examples below.
Task Demand	Sample Response Mechanisms
Determine connections between the text of a story and the visual, multimedia, or oral presentation of the same story, using details to describe the connection.	 EBSR Requires the student to select an explanation of the connection between a text and a visual, multimedia, or oral presentation of a text and then to select words and phrases from the text to support that explanation. Multiple Choice Requires the student to select a description of the connection between the text of a story and a presentation of the text. Multiselect Requires the student to select multiple descriptions of the connection between the text of a story and a presentation of the text.

Task Demand	Sample Response Mechanisms
Paraphrase sections of an audio or	Multiple Choice
multimedia presentation.	 Requires the student to select words or phrases that paraphrase portions of a text read aloud or presented in a multimedia format.
	Multiselect
	 Requires the student to select multiple words or phrases that paraphrase portions of a text read aloud or presented in a multimedia format.

Content Standard(s) Assessed	LAFS.4.RL.3.9: Compare and contrast the treatment of similar
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	themes and topics (e.g., opposition of good and evil) and patterns
	of events (e.g., the quest) in stories, myths, and traditional
	literature from different cultures.
Assessment Limits	Items may ask students to compare and/or contrast similar themes,
	topics, and patterns of events from two or more texts. Items may
	require students to use key details from the texts to illustrate these
	similarities and differences. The themes may be explicitly or
	implicitly stated. Items should not ask about a singular literary text
	and should be used with text sets.
Text Types	The items assessing this standard may be used with two or more
	grade-appropriate literary texts that are stories, myths, or
	traditional literature from different cultures. Texts may vary in
	complexity.
Response Mechanisms	The Technology-Enhanced Item Descriptions section on pages 3 and
	4 provides a list of Response Mechanisms that may be used to
	assess this standard (excluding the Editing Task Choice and Editing
	Task item types). The Sample Response Mechanisms may include,
	but are not limited to, the examples below.
Task Demand	Sample Response Mechanisms
Compare and/or contrast how	Selectable Hot Text
similar themes, topics, and	 Requires the student to select words and phrases that show
patterns of events are treated in	similarities and differences in the treatment of topics,
two or more texts from different	patterns of events, and themes.
cultures.	EBSR
	Requires the student to select a theme, topic, or pattern of
	events found in two or more texts and to select words and
	phrases from the text that show how the authors treat the
	theme, topic, or pattern of events.
	Multiple Choice
	 Requires the student to select a description of similarities
	or differences in the treatment of the same theme, topic, or
	pattern of events in two or more texts.
	Multiselect
	Requires the student to select multiple similarities or
	 Requires the student to select multiple similarities or differences in the treatment of the same theme, topic, or
	events found in two or more texts and to select words and phrases from the text that show how the authors treat the theme, topic, or pattern of events. Multiple Choice Requires the student to select a description of similarities or differences in the treatment of the same theme, topic, or pattern of events in two or more texts.

Content Standard(s) Assessed	LAFS.4.RI.1.1: Refer to details and examples in a text when
	explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing
	inferences from the text.
Assessment Limits	Items may ask the student to use details from the text to explain
	what the text says explicitly or implicitly. The item may require
	students to draw inferences from the text.
Text Types	The items assessing this standard may be used with one or more
	grade-appropriate informational texts. Texts may vary in
	complexity.
Response Mechanisms	The Technology-Enhanced Item Descriptions section on pages 3 and
	4 provides a list of Response Mechanisms that may be used to
	assess this standard (excluding the Editing Task Choice and Editing
	Task item types). The Sample Response Mechanisms may include,
	but are not limited to, the examples below.
Task Demand	Sample Response Mechanisms
Identify text-based support for a	Selectable Hot Text
statement about what the text	Requires the student to select words or phrases from the
says explicitly or implicitly.	text to answer questions about what the text says explicitly or implicitly.
	Requires the student to select a statement about what the
	text says explicitly or implicitly and then to select words or
	phrases to support the statement.
	EBSR
	Requires the student to select an inference and then to
	select a detail or details from the text to support the
	inference.
	Multiple Choice
	Requires the student to select direct quotations or
	descriptions of textual evidence to support an explicit or
	implicit statement from the text.
	Multiselect
	Requires the student to select multiple details or
	quotations to support an explicit or implicit statement from the text.
	GRID
	 Requires the student to drag into appropriate areas of a
	graphic organizer words or phrases that support an explicit
	statement or an inference from the text.

Content Standard(s) Assessed	LAFS.4.RI.1.2: Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it
	is supported by key details; summarize the text.
Assessment Limits	Items may ask students to determine the main idea and which
	details support the main idea. The main idea may be explicitly or
	implicitly stated. Items may ask students to summarize the text.
Text Types	The items assessing this standard may be used with one or more
	grade-appropriate informational texts. Texts may vary in
	complexity.
Response Mechanisms	The Technology-Enhanced Item Descriptions section on pages 3 and
	4 provides a list of Response Mechanisms that may be used to
	assess this standard (excluding the Editing Task Choice and Editing
	Task item types). The Sample Response Mechanisms may include,
	but are not limited to, the examples below.
Task Demand	Sample Response Mechanisms
Determine a main idea of a text.	Selectable Hot Text
	Requires the student to select the main idea of the text and
	then to select details from the text that support the main
	idea.
	Open Response
	Requires the student to state the main idea of the text and
	to provide supporting details.
Provide a summary of the text.	Selectable Hot Text
	Requires the student to select details from the text that are
	necessary for a summary.
	Drag-and-Drop Hot Text
	Requires the student to correctly place in the correct order
	details from the text that are necessary for a summary.
	Multiple Choice
	Requires the student to identify the correct summary of the
	text.
	Multiselect
	Requires the student to select multiple details from the text
	that are necessary for a summary.

Content Standard(s) Assessed	LAFS.4.RI.1.3: Explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text, including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text.
Assessment Limits	Items may ask students to use explicit and implicit details from the text to explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts. The items may require students to draw inferences from the text. Items should not focus on comprehension of details. Rather, the items should focus on how specific details contribute to the explanation of events, procedures, ideas, or concepts.
Text Types	The items assessing this standard may be used with one or more grade-appropriate informational texts. Texts may vary in complexity.
Response Mechanisms	The Technology-Enhanced Item Descriptions section on pages 3 and 4 provides a list of Response Mechanisms that may be used to assess this standard (excluding the Editing Task Choice and Editing Task item types). The Sample Response Mechanisms may include, but are not limited to, the examples below.
Task Demand	Sample Response Mechanisms
Explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a text using specific information in a text.	 Requires the student to select an explanation of an event, procedure, idea, or concept from the text and then to select a detail or details from the text to support that explanation. Multiple Choice Requires the student to select an explanation of an event, procedure, idea, or concept from the text. Open Response Requires the student to explain an event, procedure, idea, or concept using specific details from the text.

Content Standard(s) Assessed	LAFS.4.R.2.4: Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words or phrases in a text relevant to a grade 4 topic of subject area. LAFS.4.L.3.4: Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown or multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 4 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies. a. Use context (e.g., definitions, examples, or restatement in text) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase. b. Use common, grade-appropriate Greek and Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word (e.g., telegraph, photograph, autograph). LAFS.4.L.3.5: Demonstrate understanding of word relationships and nuances in word meanings. a. Explain the meaning of simple similes and metaphors (e.g., as pretty as a picture) in context. b. Recognize and explain the meaning of common idioms, adages, and proverbs. c. Demonstrate understanding of words by relating them to their opposites (antonyms) and to words with similar but not identical meanings (synonyms). Also assesses: LAFS.4.RF.3.3 and LAFS 4.RF.4.4.
Assessment Limits	Items may ask students to use the text to determine the meanings of academic and domain-specific words and phrases. Items may ask students to use contextual clues or Greek and Latin affixes and roots to determine the meaning of a word. Items may ask students to explain the meaning of a simile or metaphor in the context of the text. Items may ask students to explain the meaning of common idioms, adages, and proverbs. Items may ask students to relate words to their antonyms and synonyms. Items should not exclusively ask the student to determine the meanings of basic, everyday words and phrases that commonly appear in spoken language.
Text Types	The items assessing this standard may be used with one or more grade-appropriate informational texts. Texts may vary in complexity.
Response Mechanisms	The Technology-Enhanced Item Descriptions section on pages 3 and 4 provides a list of Response Mechanisms that may be used to assess this standard (excluding the Editing Task Choice and Editing Task item types). The Sample Response Mechanisms may include, but are not limited to, the examples below.

Task Demand	Sample Response Mechanisms
Determine the meaning of a word	Selectable Hot Text
or phrase by using context clues.	Requires the student to select details from the text that
	show the meaning of a word or phrase used in the text.
	Requires the student to select a meaning of a word or
	 Requires the student to select a meaning of a word or phrase and then to select details from the text that support that meaning.
	Multiselect
	 Requires the student to correctly identify multiple words or phrases that illustrate the meaning of a word in the text.
Determine the meaning of a word	Multiple Choice
or phrase using grade-appropriate	Requires the student to select the correct meaning of a
Greek and Latin roots or affixes.	word from the text that contains a Greek or Latin root or affix.
	Open Response
	Requires the student to explain in words the meaning of a
	word from the text that contains a Greek or Latin affix or
Explain the meaning of a simile or	root. Selectable Hot Text
metaphor in the context of the	Requires the student to select words or phrases that
text.	illustrate the meaning of a simile or metaphor.
	Multiple Choice
	 Requires the student to select an explanation of a simile or metaphor found in the text.
	Multiselect
	 Requires the student to select multiple words or phrases that contribute to an explanation of a simile or metaphor found in the text.
Explain the meaning of common	Multiple Choice
idioms, adages, and proverbs found in the text.	 Requires the student to select an explanation of an idiom, adage, or proverb found in the text.
	Multiselect
	 Requires the student to select multiple words or phrases that contribute to an explanation of an idiom, adage, or proverb found in the text.

Task Demand	Sample Response Mechanisms
Relate words to their antonyms	Selectable Hot Text
and synonyms.	 Requires the student to select a word or words from the text that are antonyms or synonyms to a specific word from the text.
	Drag-and-Drop Hot Text
	 Requires the student to correctly place words in a chart to show their antonym or synonym relationship to a specific word from the text.
	Multiple Choice
	 Requires the student to select an antonym or synonym to a specific word from the text.
	Multiselect
	 Requires the student to select multiple words that function as antonyms or synonyms to a specific word from the text.

Content Standard(s) Assessed	LAFS.4.RI.2.5: Describe the overall structure (e.g., chronology, comparison, cause/effect, problem/solution) of events, ideas,
	concepts, or information in a text or part of a text.
Assessment Limits	Items may ask students to refer to structural elements when
	explaining events, ideas, concepts, or information in a text. Items
	may ask students to identify and describe the particular structure
	(chronology, comparison, cause/effect, problem/solution) used in
	a text or part of a text.
Text Types	The items assessing this standard may be used with one or more
	grade-appropriate informational texts. Texts may vary in
	complexity.
Response Mechanisms	The Technology-Enhanced Item Descriptions section on pages 3
	and 4 provides a list of Response Mechanisms that may be used to
	assess this standard (excluding the Editing Task Choice and Editing
	Task item types). The Sample Response Mechanisms may include,
	but are not limited to, the examples below.
Task Demand	Sample Response Mechanisms
Describe the overall structure of	Selectable Hot Text
events, ideas, concepts, or	Requires the student to select a description of the
information in a text or portion of	structure of events, ideas, concepts, or information within
a text.	a text and then to select a detail or details from the text
	that supports that description.
	EBSR
	Requires the student to select a description of the
	structure of a text and then to select a detail or details
	from the text that show the development of that
	structure.
	Multiple Choice
	Requires the student to select a description of the overall
	structure of events, ideas, concepts, or information within
	a text.
	Open Response
	Requires the student to explain the structure of events,
	ideas, concepts, or information within a text.

Content Standard(s) Assessed	LAFS.4.RI.2.6: Compare and contrast a firsthand and secondhand
	account of the same event or topic; describe the differences in
	focus and the information provided.
Assessment Limits	Items may require students to compare and/or contrast firsthand
	and secondhand accounts within the same text. Items may ask
	students to compare and/or contrast firsthand and secondhand
	accounts in multiple texts. Items may ask students to identify the
	differences in focus and information provided by a firsthand and a
	secondhand account of the same event or topic.
Text Types	The items assessing this standard may be used with one or more
	grade-appropriate informational texts. Texts may vary in
	complexity.
Response Mechanisms	The Technology-Enhanced Item Descriptions section on pages 3
	and 4 provides a list of Response Mechanisms that may be used to
	assess this standard (excluding the Editing Task Choice and Editing
	Task item types). The Sample Response Mechanisms may include,
	but are not limited to, the examples below.
Task Demand	Sample Response Mechanisms
Determine similarities and/or	Selectable Hot Text
differences between firsthand and	Requires the student to select details from each text that
secondhand accounts of the same	show a similarity or difference in the firsthand and
event or topic.	secondhand accounts of the same event or topic.
	EBSR
	Requires the student to select a description of the
	similarities or differences between firsthand and
	secondhand accounts of the same event or topic and then
	to select details from one or more texts that support that
	description.
	Multiple Choice
	Requires the student to select a description of the
	similarities or differences between firsthand and
	secondhand accounts of the same event or topic.
	Multiselect
	Requires the student to select multiple similarities or
	differences in the firsthand and secondhand accounts of
	the same event or topic.
	Open Response
	Requires the student to describe the similarities or
	differences between a firsthand and a secondhand
	account of the same event or topic.

Task Demand	Sample Response Mechanisms
Describe the differences in focus of or information provided by a firsthand and a secondhand account of the same event or topic.	Selectable Hot Text Requires the student to select details from each text that show a difference in the focus of or information provided by firsthand and secondhand accounts of the same event or topic. EBSR
	Requires the student to select a description of the difference in the focus of or information provided by firsthand and secondhand accounts of the same event or topic and then to select details from one or more texts that support that description. Multiple Choice
	Requires the student to select a difference in the focus of or information provided by firsthand and secondhand accounts of the same event or topic. Multiselect
	 Requires the student to select multiple differences in the focus of or information provided by firsthand and secondhand accounts of the same event or topic.
	Open Response
	 Requires the student to describe the difference in the focus of or information provided by firsthand and secondhand accounts of the same event or topic.

Content Standard(s) Assessed	LAFS.4.RI.3.7: Interpret information presented visually, orally, or quantitatively (e.g., in charts, graphs, diagrams, time lines, animations, or interactive elements on Web pages) and explain how the information contributes to an understanding of the text in which it appears. Also assesses: LAFS.4.SL.1.2: Paraphrase portions of a text read aloud or information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally. LAFS.4.SL.1.3: Identify the reasons and evidence a speaker provides to support particular points.
Assessment Limits	Items may ask students to interpret information presented visually, orally, or quantitatively and to explain how the information contributes to understanding. Items may ask students to paraphrase portions of a text read aloud or presented in diverse media and formats. Items may ask students to identify the reasons and evidence a speaker provides as support for particular points. Written transcripts, excerpts, and/or direct quotations from an audio clip should not be provided in item stems or answer options.
Text Types	The items assessing this standard may be used with two or more grade-appropriate informational texts. Passages may consist of text, visuals, multimedia, or audio presentations. Texts may vary in complexity.
Response Mechanisms	The Technology-Enhanced Item Descriptions section on pages 3 and 4 provides a list of Response Mechanisms that may be used to assess this standard (excluding the Editing Task Choice and Editing Task item types). The Sample Response Mechanisms may include, but are not limited to, the examples below.
Task Demand	Sample Response Mechanisms
Interpret information presented visually, orally, or qualitatively and explain how the information contributes to understanding.	 Requires the student to select an interpretation of information presented visually, orally, or quantitatively and then to select an explanation of how that information contributes to an understanding of the text in which it appears. Open Response Requires the student to explain his/her interpretation of
	information presented visually, orally, or quantitatively and how the information contributes to understanding.

Task Demand	Sample Response Mechanisms
Paraphrase sections of an audio or	Multiple Choice
multimedia presentation.	Requires the student to select words or phrases that
	paraphrase portions of a text read aloud or presented in a multimedia format.
	Multiselect
	Requires the student to select multiple words or phrases
	that paraphrase portions of a text read aloud or presented in a multimedia format.
Identify the reasons and evidence	EBSR
a speaker provides to support	Requires the student to select a particular point made in
particular points.	the text and then to select reasons and evidence from the text that support that particular point.
	Multiple Choice
	 Requires the student to select description of the reasons and evidence a speaker provides to support a particular point.
	Multiselect
	 Requires the student to select multiple descriptions of the reasons and evidence a speaker provides to support a particular point.
	Drag-and-Drop Hot Text
	 Requires the student to pair descriptions of the points
	made in the text with reasons and evidence from the text.

Content Standard(s) Assessed	LAFS.4.RI.3.8: Explain how an author uses reasons and evidence to		
	support particular points in a text.		
Assessment Limits	Items may require students to identify the ways an author uses		
	evidence or details to support key points in the text. Items may		
	require students to describe how or why an author uses evidence		
	or details to support key points in the text.		
Text Types	The items assessing this standard may be used with one or more		
	grade-appropriate informational texts. Texts may vary in		
	complexity.		
Response Mechanisms	The Technology-Enhanced Item Descriptions section on pages 3		
	and 4 provides a list of Response Mechanisms that may be used to		
	assess this standard (excluding the Editing Task Choice and Editing		
	Task item types). The Sample Response Mechanisms may include,		
	but are not limited to, the examples below.		
Task Demand	Sample Response Mechanisms		
Explain how an author uses	Selectable Hot Text		
reasons or evidence to support a	Requires the student to select an explanation of how an		
particular point from the text.	author supports a particular point in the text and then to		
	select reasons and evidence from the text used to support		
	that point.		
	EBSR		
	Requires the student to select a particular point made in		
	the text and then to select reasons and evidence from the		
	text that support that particular point.		
	Multiple Choice		
	Requires the student to select an explanation of how an		
	author uses reasons and evidence in a text to support a		
	particular point.		

Content Standard(s) Assessed	LAFS.4.RI.3.9: Integrate information from two texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably.	
Assessment Limits	Items may ask students to synthesize information from two texts	
	on the same topic. Items may require students to understand	
	connections between texts that are implicitly or explicitly stated.	
	Items should be used with text sets and should not ask about a	
	single informational text.	
Text Types	The items assessing this standard may be used with two or more	
	grade-appropriate informational texts. Texts may vary in	
	complexity.	
Response Mechanisms	The Technology-Enhanced Item Descriptions section on pages 3	
	and 4 provides a list of Response Mechanisms that may be used to	
	assess this standard (excluding the Editing Task Choice and Editing	
	Task item types). The Sample Response Mechanisms may include,	
	but are not limited to, the examples below.	
Task Demand	Sample Response Mechanisms	
Synthesize information from two	Open Response	
texts on the same topic.	 Requires the student to explain a particular subject or 	
	point, drawing on information from two texts on the same	
	topic.	

Editing Task Guidelines for Language Standards

	ask duidelilles for Language Standards
Content Standard(s) Assessed	LAFS.4.L.1.1: Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking. a. Demonstrate legible cursive writing skills. b. Use relative pronouns (who, whose, whom, which, that) and relative adverbs (when, where, why). c. Form and use the progressive (e.g., I was walking; I am walking; I will be walking) verb tenses. d. Use modal auxiliaries (e.g., can, may, must) to convey various conditions. e. Order adjectives within sentences according to conventional patterns (e.g., a small red bag rather than a red small bag). f. Form and use prepositional phrases. g. Produce complete sentences, recognizing and correcting inappropriate fragments and run-ons. h. Correctly use frequently confused words (e.g., to, too, two; there, their). LAFS.4.L.1.2: Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing. a. Use correct capitalization. b. Use commas and quotation marks to mark direct speech and quotations from a text. c. Use a comma before a coordinating conjunction in a compound sentence. d. Spell grade-appropriate words correctly, consulting references as needed.
Assessment Limits	Items may ask the student to evaluate and correct errors which focus on grammar and usage or capitalization, punctuation, and spelling. Items should assess on-grade-level errors; however, once a Language Standard is introduced, grade-appropriate items may be written to assess continued mastery of standard conventions of English.
Text Types	Items assessing this standard will be used with a three- or four-paragraph text containing possible errors in capitalization, usage, grammar, spelling, and punctuation. The editing task will be similar to a student's essay in quality and difficulty. The text should be accessible for the grade and should assess the student's knowledge of grammar, usage, and language conventions. Texts will be between 100 and 200 words.
Response Mechanisms	These standards will be assessed using the Editing Task Choice and Editing Task Item types. Descriptions of these item types can be found in the Technology-Enhanced Item Descriptions section on pages 3 and 4.

Editing Task Guidelines for Language Standards

Task Demand	Sample Response Mechanisms	
Apply standard English grammar and usage.	 Editing Task Choice Requires the student to select the appropriate replacement for an ungrammatical word or phrase. Requires the student to select the correct version of a 	
	word or phrase to be used in a sentence. Editing Task Requires the student to replace an incorrect word or phrase by typing in a corrected response.	
Apply standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.	 Editing Task Choice Requires the student to select the appropriate usage of grade-appropriate conventions. Requires the student to select the correct spelling of a word. Editing Task 	
	 Requires the student to replace a word or phrase with the correct spelling of the word by typing it in a text box. 	

Text-Based Writing Stimulus and Prompt Guidelines

Writing Prompt Specifications

Overall Task Description

Students will read a stimulus about a single topic. A stimulus consists of several texts written on a single topic. The stimulus should consist of informational or literary fiction or nonfiction texts and may cover a wide array of topics. After reading the stimulus, the students will respond to a writing prompt in which they will provide information on a topic or take a stance to support an opinion or argument.

Stimulus Attributes

The complexity of the texts used as stimuli should be accessible for the applicable grade. While this is primarily a writing test, a grade-appropriate level of literacy is required. In choosing the text(s), qualitative and quantitative dimensions of text complexity must be balanced by the task considerations required of the reader. Graphics such as infographics, photographs, tables, and diagrams may be included with the stimuli. The graphics used, however, must be purposeful to the task and should supplement the student's understanding of the topic. During the text review process, Florida educators use professional judgment and experience to determine whether the reading level of each selection is suitable for the grade level.

The stimuli for the **informative/explanatory** prompts should maintain a clear topical connection but may address diverse concepts and ideas. Stimuli for the **opinion/argumentative** prompts should present opposing points of view. Each point of view should be equally represented so that a student may take either side of a position. Thorough and convincing support for the controlling ideas must be evident in all stimuli.

Texts used as stimuli should be interesting and appealing to students at the grades for which the selections are intended. They should be conceptually appropriate and relevant and should reflect real-world settings and events that are interesting to students and are not limited to classroom or school-related situations. Texts with controversial or offensive content should not be included. Confusing or emotionally charged subjects should also be avoided. References to trademarks, commercial products, and brand names should be checked by the contractor's legal department for permission to use. If there is any question about the accuracy of content, the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) may require at least two additional sources to verify the information in the text.

The stimulus will consist of two to four texts. The approximate combined word count of the text sets is listed in the table below.

Grade Level	Minimum Word Count	Maximum Word Count
4	800	1300

The stimulus will be presented along with a writing prompt that asks students to write an essay about the topic. The students will be required to synthesize information from the text sets and must cite specific evidence from the texts to support their ideas.

Text-Based Writing Stimulus and Prompt Guidelines

For the **informative/explanatory** writing prompts, students will be required to synthesize and analyze ideas from the stimuli to develop and support a controlling idea.

For the **opinion/argumentative** writing prompts, students will be required to synthesize and analyze ideas and evidence from stimuli. They will use these ideas to present and support an opinion (grades 4–5) or to argue and support a claim (grades 6–10).

Assessed Standards

The Florida Standards Writing Assessment will assess the following standards from the appropriate grades:

LAFS.W.1.1 or LAFS.W.1.2	LAFS.L.1.1
LAFS.W.2.4	LAFS.L.1.2
LAFS.W.2.5	LAFS.L.2.3
LAFS.W.2.6	LAFS.L.3.4
LAFS.W.3.8	LAFS.L.3.5
LAFS.W.3.9	LAFS.L.3.6

Text-Based Writing Stimulus and Prompt Guidelines

Directions Template

Grade 4-5

Write an informative essay about Use information from the passages in your essay.

-OR-

Write an essay in which you give your opinion about Use information from the passages in your essay.

Manage your time carefully so that you can

- read the passages;
- plan your response;
- write your response; and
- revise and edit your response.

Write (type) your essay in the space provided.

You have ____ minutes to read the passages, and plan, write, revise, and edit your essay.

ELA Reading and Writing Stimulus Guidelines

Acceptable Text Types

Informational Text	Literary Text
Primary Sources/Nonfiction	Literary Fiction
 Historical documents (e.g., Bill of Rights) 	Short stories
 Essays (e.g., informational, persuasive, 	Poetry
analytical, historical, scientific)	Historical fiction
 Letters, journals, diaries 	• Fables
Secondary Sources/Nonfiction	Folk tales, tall tales
 Magazine articles 	 Legends
 Newspaper articles 	Myths
 Editorials 	Drama
 Encyclopedia articles 	Fantasy
Functional Materials	Excerpts from longer works
 Consumer documents (e.g., warranties, 	
manuals, contracts, applications)	
 Embedded in text (e.g., tables, charts, 	
maps, graphs, illustrations, photographs,	
captions, text boxes)	
 How-to articles 	
 Brochures, fliers 	
 Schedules 	
 Website pages 	
Literary Nonfiction	
 Biographical and autobiographical 	
sketches	
 Diaries, memoirs, journals, letters 	
 Essays (e.g., personal and classical 	
narratives)	
Critiques	

ELA Reading and Writing Stimulus Guidelines

Possible Topics

Essential Skills

- Literacy
- Communication
- Teamwork
- Leadership

Science, Technology, Engineering, and

Mathematics

- Earth/Space Science
- Life Science
- Physical Science
- Concepts of Technology
- Computer Technology
- Information Technology
- Technology Processes
- Concepts of Engineering
- Engineering Tools
- Engineering Design and Testing
- Mathematics

Health and Physical Education

- Movement Competency
- Cognitive Abilities
- Lifetime Fitness
- Personal Health
- Health Care

Business Management and Administration

- Finance
- Financial Literacy
- Business Plans
- Marketing
- Entrepreneurship
- Transportation of Goods
- Manufacturing
- Agriculture
- Hospitality Industry
- Tourism Industry

Social Studies

- U.S. History
- Civics and Government
- Geography
- Economics

World Languages

- Cultural Perspectives
- Cultural Comparisons
- Cultural Communities

Arts

- Dance
- Music
- Theater
- Visual Arts

Interests

- Adventure
- Animals
- Careers
- Entertainment
- Family
- Friendship
- Hobbies/Crafts
- Humor
- Mystery
- School
- Sports/Games
- Trips/Journey

Appendix A Grade 4 Sample Passage and Item Sets

This passage set includes two traditional stories. The first passage is a traditional Native American tale. The second passage is a modern version of the trickster Fox tales from European folklore.

Passage 1: How the Moon Was Kind to Her Mother

- Once upon a time, a long while ago, the Sun, the Wind, and the Moon were three sisters, and their mother was a pale, lovely Star that shone, far away, in the dark evening sky.
- One day their uncle and aunt, Thunder and Lightning, asked the three sisters to have supper with them, and their mother said that they might go. She would wait for them, she said, and would not set until all three returned and told her about their pleasant visit.
- 3 So the Sun, the Wind, and the Moon started out for the party with the Thunder and Lightning. Oh, it was a supper to remember! The table was spread with a cloth of rainbow. There were ices like the snow on the mountain tops, cakes as soft and white as clouds, and fruits from every quarter of the earth. The three sisters ate their fill, especially the Sun and the Wind, who were very greedy and left not so much as a crumb on their plates. But the Moon was kind and remembered her mother. She hid a part of her supper in her long white fingers to take home and share with her mother, the Star.
- Then the three sisters said good-bye to the Thunder and Lightning and went home.
- When they reached there, they found their mother, the Star, waiting and shining for them as she had said she would. "What did you bring me from the supper?" she asked.
- The Sun tossed her head with all its yellow hair in disdain. "Why should I bring you anything?" she asked. "I went out for my own pleasure and not to think of you." It was the same with the Wind. She wrapped her flowing robes about her and turned away from her mother. "I, too, went out for my own entertainment," she said, "and why should I think of you, Mother, when you were not with me?" But it was very different with the Moon, who was not greedy and selfish as her two sisters were. She turned her pale sweet face toward her mother and held out her slender hands. "See, Mother," cried the Moon, "I have brought you part of everything that was on my plate. I ate only half of the feast, for I wanted to share it with you." So the mother brought a gold plate, and the food that her unselfish daughter, the Moon, had brought her heaped the plate high. She ate it, and then she turned to her three children, for she had something important to say to them.

- She spoke first to the Sun. "You were selfish, my daughter," she said. "You went out and enjoyed yourself with no thought of one who was left alone at home. Hereafter you shall be no longer beloved among men. Your rays shall be so hot and burning that they shall scorch everything they touch." And that is why, to this day, the Sun is hot and blazing.
- Next the mother spoke to the Wind. "You, too, my daughter, have been unkind and greedy," she said. "You enjoyed yourself with no thought of anyone else. You shall blow in the parching heat of your sister, the Sun, and wither and blast all that you touch." And that is why, to this day, the Wind, blowing in hot weather, is so unpleasant.
- But, last, the mother spoke to her kind daughter, the Moon. "You remembered your mother and were unselfish," she said. "To those who are thoughtful of their mother, great blessings come. For all time your light shall be cool, calm, and beautiful. You shall wane, but you shall wax again. You shall make the dark night bright, and all men shall call you blessed." And that is why, to this day, the Moon is so cool, bright, and beautiful.

"How the Moon Was Kind to Her Mother." In the public domain.

Passage 2: Sly as a Fox

- Fox was hungry! He decided that eggs would make a good meal, so he trotted off to the pine forest. When Fox reached the forest, he searched for a nest. He knew if he could find a bird's nest, he would probably find eggs. There, deep in the forest, Fox found an evergreen tree so tall it seemed to touch the clouds. At the very top was a nest that belonged to Eagle. I know just what to do, thought Fox, picking some long blades of grass. I'll trick Eagle and make her give me her eggs.
- 11 Fox knocked on the tree and called loudly, "Eagle, throw me an egg!"
- Eagle stared down at Fox from the top of the tree and replied, "No!"

- "I'm warning you, you'd better throw me an egg," repeated Fox. 13 "If you don't, I'm going to use these sharp blades of grass to cut down your tree!" Because Fox's words frightened Eagle, she threw him an egg. Fox caught the egg in his paw, saying, "Now I want another one!" When Eagle refused, Fox said, "I'll cut down your tree and take all your eggs!" Eagle still felt scared, and so she threw another egg. Now Fox laughed at Eagle, saying, "I tricked you! Do you think it's possible to cut down a tree with some blades of grass?" And he ran away with the two eggs. Instead of being frightened, Eagle now was furious! She beat the air with her wings, grabbed Fox in her talons, and carried him away from the forest. Eagle flew over the mountains, over snow-covered fields, and over the deep ocean. At last Eagle landed on a very small island and set Fox down upon a rock. "Now you'll never trouble me again!" Eagle said. Taking her eggs back, she flew into the sky like a bolt of lightning.
- Since the island was a small dot in the icy sea, Fox decided to walk all around it. As he walked, he made up a song. "How can I get off this island?" he sang. "What can I do, what can I do?" As he sang, Fox noticed all kinds of sea creatures swimming in the cold ocean water! Seals, walruses, and whales poked their heads out of the water. They all listened to Fox's song. Then the sea creatures spoke and asked Fox what he was singing. "We couldn't make out the words," the animals explained. This gave Fox an idea. He could get the sea animals to aid in his escape.
- "Thank you for listening to my song!" Fox said politely. "I'll sing it again so you can understand the words." This time, though, Fox sang these words instead: "Which has more animals, the land or the sea?" The seals, walruses, and whales all spoke up like one creature. "Of course there are more animals in the sea!" they exclaimed. "Hmm," Fox said, "I wonder how we can prove this? Why don't you come to the top of the water and make a bridge from this island to the next one? I can walk over all of you and count as I go." And so every seal, walrus, and whale rose to the top of the water. They created a huge bridge across the sea. Then Fox jumped onto the back of the first animal and walked from the back of one animal to the next. As he walked, he pretended to count.

- 16 I'm certainly clever, he thought. That saying about being "sly as a fox" describes me so well!
- 17 Finally, he got to the last creature. Fox jumped down as quickly as he could. He landed on dry earth, turned and thanked the sea animals, and sang to himself as he ran home.

"Sly as a Fox" property of the Florida Department of Education.

Sample Item 1 LAFS.4.RL.1.1

This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A

Why does Fox sing for the sea animals in Passage 2?

- A He wants their help.
- B He is grateful to them.
- C He likes their attention.
- He wants to impress them.

Part B

Which sentence supports your answer in Part A?

- As he sang, Fox noticed all kinds of sea creatures swimming in the cold ocean water!" (paragraph 14)
- Then the sea creatures spoke and asked Fox what he was singing." (paragraph 14)
- © "He could get the sea animals to aid in his escape." (paragraph 14)
- Thank you for listening to my song! Fox said politely." (paragraph 15)

Sample Item 2 LAFS.4.RL.1.2

This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A

What is the theme of Passage 1?

- A High hopes can lead to disappointment.
- B Listen to those who are older and wiser.
- If you are nice to others, they will be nice to you.
- When planning an event, be sure to include everyone.

Part B

Which sentence from the story supports the answer in Part A?

- (A) "She would wait for them, she said, and would not set until all three returned and told her about their pleasant visit." (paragraph 2)
- (B) "What did you bring me from the supper?' she asked." (paragraph 5)
- © "She ate it, and then she turned to her three children, for she had something important to say to them." (paragraph 6)
- "To those who are thoughtful of their mother, great blessings come." (paragraph 9)

Sample Item 3 LAFS.4.RL.1.3				
Why does Eagle give her eggs to Fox?				
Type your answer in the space provided.				

Sample Item 4 LAFS.4.RL.2.4

Read the sentence from Passage 1.

"The Sun tossed her head with all its yellow hair in disdain." (paragraph 6)

What does the word <u>disdain</u> show about the Sun's attitude toward her mother?

- A The Sun does not respect her mother.
- (B) The Sun thinks her mother is generous.
- © The Sun is confused by the question her mother asked.
- The Sun is nervous because she did not bring her mother anything.

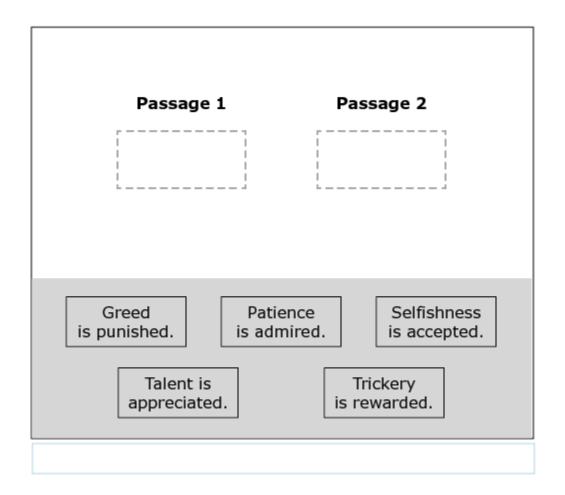
Sample Item 5 LAFS.4.RL.2.6

How are the points of view in both passages similar?

- Both passages are told from the first person point of view.
- Both passages are told from the third person point of view.
- © Both passages are told from the point of view of various characters.
- Both passages are told from the point of view of the main character.

Sample Item 6 LAFS.4.RL.3.9

Each story has a conflict that is resolved differently. Choose the way the conflict is resolved and place it in the appropriate box for each story.



Answer Key

Sample Item 1: Part A: A; Part B: C

Sample Item 2: Part A: C; Part B: D

Sample Item 3: The student types a phrase similar to "She is frightened because the fox says he will cut down her tree and take all her eggs" in the answer box.

Sample Item 4: A

Sample Item 5: B

Sample Item 6: The student places "Greed is punished." under Passage 1 and "Trickery is rewarded." under Passage 2.

Passage 1: A Dinosaur Named Sue by Pat Relf

In this excerpt from A Dinosaur Named Sue, a scientist discovers a Tyrannosaurus rex skeleton during a hike. The discovery is important because it is the most complete Tyrannosaurus rex skeleton ever found.

The passage can be found by using the following citation: A Dinosaur Named Sue by Pat Relf, copyright © 2000 by The Field Museum, published by Scholastic, Inc. The excerpt begins on page 12 and ends on page 14.

Passage 2: Dinosaur Chomper from Weekly Reader Connections

This passage discusses the discovery of a gigantic prehistoric crocodile. Scientists think that the animal was so large that it hunted dinosaurs.

The passage can be found by using the following citation: "Dinosaur Chomper" from Weekly Reader Connections, copyright © 2007 by Weekly Reader Corporation, published by Readworks, Inc. The passage includes the full text of the article only.

Passage 3: Celebrating and Serenading Tyrannosaurus Sue by Jacki Lyden and Steve Fiffer

In this audio clip, author Steve Fiffer discusses a Tyrannosaurus rex skeleton named Sue that is on display at the Field Museum in Chicago.

This audio clip can be found using the following citation: "Celebrating and Serenading Tyrannosaurus Sue" by Jacki Lyden and Steve Fiffer, copyright © 2005 by NPR. The clip begins at 2:17 and ends at 3:39.

Sample Item 1

LAFS.4.RI.1.2

This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A

What is the main idea of Passage 2?

- SuperCroc's fossils will be displayed in different museums.
- SuperCroc's fossils were found in the Sahara Desert in Africa.
- SuperCroc was a giant crocodile that hunted dinosaurs millions of years ago.
- SuperCroc hid from its prey underwater with only its eyes and snout showing.

Part B

How does the information in Passage 2 support the main idea in Part A?

- by describing the size of dinosaurs that lived millions of years ago
- B by giving details about SuperCroc's size and other physical features
- © by describing the environment where SuperCroc's remains were found
- by explaining the process scientists used to search for SuperCroc's remains

Sample Item 2 LAFS.4.RI.1.3

This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A

What event led to Susan Hendrickson's discovery of *Tyrannosaurus rex* bones?

- A problem with a team truck gave her extra time to look for fossils.
- (B) The cliffs where the bones were found were covered with a thick fog.
- The team found the bones of a different dinosaur earlier in the summer.
- A team of scientists searched carefully over the course of an entire summer.

Part B

Select the sentence that supports the answer in Part A.

- "Susan had spent the summer of 1990 working with a group of fossil hunters from a company called The Black Hills Institute." (paragraph 2)
- The group had searched for fossils nearly everywhere nearby, but there was one area that they had not searched." (paragraph 4)
- © "This free day, while the others repaired the truck's tire, was her chance to investigate." (paragraph 4)
- She hoped that there would be more bones from this animal buried inside the cliff." (paragraph 7)

Sample Item 3 LAFS.4.RI.2.4

This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then, answer Part B.

Part A

What does investigate mean as it is used in paragraph 4?

- A) to solve a difficult problem
- B) to travel from one place to another
- C) to work hard on a task until it is done
- D) to study a subject looking for answers

Part B

Select **two** sentences from paragraph 4 that provide clues to the meaning of <u>investigate</u>.

Susan had an idea. The group had searched for fossils nearly everywhere nearby, but there was one area that they had not searched. Across the valley, she could see some cliffs. The group had already found fossils in rock similar to these cliffs. Susan wondered if more fossils might be buried there. This free day, while the others repaired the truck's tire, was her chance to investigate.

Sample Item 4 LAFS.4.RI.2.5

How does the author of Passage 1 present information about the discovery of *Tyrannosaurus rex* bones?

- A She describes how a dog helps discover fossils.
- B She compares the appearances of different kinds of dinosaurs.
- She explains a problem with looking for fossils and gives possible solutions.
- She presents the search for fossils in the order in which the events occurred.

Sample Item 5 LAFS.4.SL.1.2

According to Steve Fiffer in the audio clip, what stands out about the "Tyrannosaurus Sue" display?

- A Sue's skeleton is large and made up of real bones.
- B Dinosaurs like Sue are on display in many museums.
- © Tyrannosaurus rex was slower than people originally thought.
- Most Tyrannosaurus rex discoveries have been of male skeletons.

Sample Item 6 LAFS.4.RI.3.8

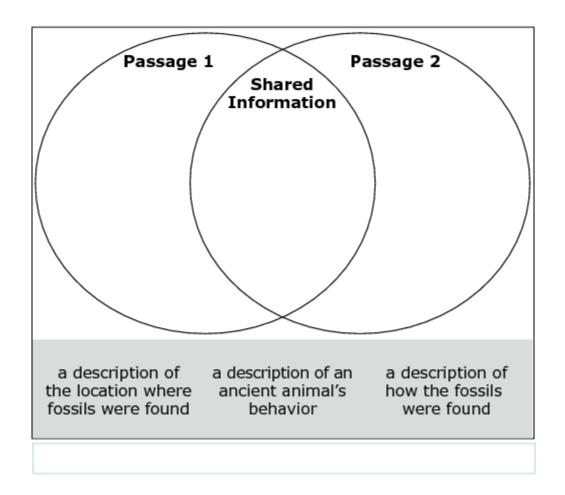
How does the author of Passage 1 support the point that the *Tyrannosaurus rex* Susan Hendrickson found was an important discovery?

- She describes what Tyrannosaurus rex bones look like.
- B She describes the scientists' process of searching for fossils.
- © She gives an example of other dinosaur bones found in the same area.
- She explains that very few Tyrannosaurus rex fossils had already been found.

Appendix A: Sample Passages and Items – Informational

Sample Item 7 LAFS.4.RI.3.9

Using the information in Passages 1 and 2, place each phrase in the correct section of the Venn diagram.



Answer Key

Sample Item 1: Part A: C; Part B: B

Sample Item 2: Part A: A; Part B: C

Sample Item 3: The student selects "to study a subject looking for answers" in Part A and "The group had searched for fossils nearly everywhere nearby, but there was one area that they had not searched." AND "Susan wondered if more fossils might be buried there." in Part B.

Sample Item 4: D

Sample Item 5: A

Sample Item 6: D

Sample Item 7: The student places "a description of how the fossils were found" under Passage 1, "a description of the location where fossils were found" under Shared Information, and "a description of an ancient animal's behavior" under Passage 2.

Appendix A: Sample Passages and Items – Editing Task

There are five highlights in the essay to show which word or phrase may be incorrect. For each highlight, click the word or phrase that is correct.

Not even traveling can stop the president from working. There is a special airplane designed just for the president. It has three different levels. Those levels include bedrooms, a conference room, offices, and even a medical room with a docktor on board. This airplane is called Air Force One.

The president travels with a lot of different people: other officials, aides, and even reporters. Air Force One can handle all the guests. There are to kitchens that feed up to one hundred people at a time. Going long distances is easy because this airplane might refuel in the air.

The name Air Force One is usually used for the white and blue large plane with these special features. However, even if the president flies on a different plane, that plane would be called Air Force One. This is because any plane that the president flies on is referred to by this name.

The president and vice president do not usually fly on the same plane, even if they are going to the same place. The vice president flies on Air Force Two. It is not quite as roomy as Air Force One but it still has everything the vice president needs. Not many people get to work in a flying office!

Appendix A: Sample Passages and Items – Editing Task

In this sample set, all items are Editing Task Choice items. The student clicks on the highlighted word or phrase in the text and a drop-down menu containing options for correcting the error is shown. The last option repeats the highlighted word or phrase as it is shown in the sentence to indicate that no correction is needed.

Sample Item 1 LAFS.4.L.1.2d

Not even traveling can stop the president from working. There is a special airplane designed just for the president. It has three different levels. Those levels include bedrooms, a conference room, offices, and even a medical room with a docktor on board. This airplane is called Air Force One.

Answer options include:

docter
doctor
dockter
docktor

Sample Item 2

LAFS.4.L.1.1h and LAFS.4.L.1.1.d

The president travels with a lot of different people: other officials, aides, and even reporters. Air Force One can handle all the guests. There are to kitchens that feed up to one hundred people at a time. Going long distances is easy because this airplane might refuel in the air.

Answer options for the first error include:

too	
tow	
two	
to	

Answer options for the second error include:

can	
must	
should	
might	

Appendix A: Sample Passages and Items – Editing Task

Sample Item 3

LAFS.4.L.1.1e

The name Air Force One is usually used for the white and blue large plane with these special features. However, even if the president flies on a different plane, that plane would be called Air Force One. This is because any plane that the president flies on is referred to by this name.

Answer options include:

blue and white large plane
large white and blue plane
large plane white and blue
white and blue large plane

Sample Item 4

LAFS.4.L.1.2c

The president and vice president do not usually fly on the same plane, even if they are going to the same place. The vice president flies on Air Force Two. It is not quite as roomy as Air Force One but it still has everything the vice president needs. Not many people get to work in a flying office!

Answer options include:

One, but,	
One, but	
One but,	
One but	

Editing Task Guidelines for Language Standards

Answer Key

Sample Item 1: The student selects "doctor."

Sample Item 2: The student selects "two" AND "can."

Sample Item 3: The student selects "large white and blue plane."

Sample Item 4: The student selects "One, but."