Grade 9 ELA NH PACE Common Performance Assessment 2017-18

Student Directions

Social Issues: A Narrative Study

Essential Question: Teacher may input their unit’s essential question.

Your Task: For this task, you will be asked to take on a different persona, stretch your ability to empathize, and improve your creative and narrative writing skills in a variety of ways. You will be producing “Journal Entries” in which you place yourself in the shoes of a person who has experienced a social issue that relates to a text you have read, something you have researched and/or a personal experience.

The Prompt: Using your knowledge from research, a text you have read, and/or personal experiences create a first person narrative which includes a narrator who is dealing with a social issue. Create a series of three or more journal entries that tells the story of how your character deals with the issue and their growth over the course of their journals.

When you write these journal entries, remember to…

- Write from the perspective of whichever person/character you take on. You should be writing a story in first person, imagining that you are your chosen person.
- Be detailed and specific. Include sensory descriptions, imagery, and explanations of your thoughts and feelings. Your reader should be able to feel as though they are reading a firsthand account of the situation.
- Draw from content studied throughout our units (core texts, short literary pieces, lyrics, etc.), as well as any research (informational articles and primary documents) about your social issue. You may also bring in your own knowledge about the topic from personal experiences and expand on the situation. Your story can be made up, as long as it fits with what we know of the social issue.
- We will be looking for appropriate grammar, writing conventions, and structure.
- You may use slang relevant to the time period or social issue if it enriches the audience’s understanding of the time period and/or issue within your journal entries.
- Your entries should be in past tense, because you are reflecting on events that your character has already experienced. Make sure to show how those experiences have shaped your character.
- Structure your writing in journal form using multiple entries.
- Use resources (graphic organizers, etc.) to inform and organize your writing.
- Typed, 12-pt font, double-spaced in Google Classroom (must be turned in at the end of each writing period) OR handwritten in pen (blue or black ink). Students may use tools (spellcheck, dictionary, etc.) during the writing process

Steps:

1. As a large group, define what a social issue is. With a small group, brainstorm a list of social issues that exist in our world today (see graphic organizer).

2. Individually, pick one social issue to focus on. Complete research on what it would be like to live with
that social issue (see graphic organizer).

3. Individually, review your notes on narrative writing and review the provided mentor texts for inspiration.

4. Complete the narrative graphic organizer to focus your writing.

5. Write your journal entries. Make sure to revisit the checklist, rubric, and resources throughout the writing process!

**REVISION CHECKLIST**

*Before handing in your journal entries, use the checklist to help you revise and edit*

**Focus**
- _____ Journal entries respond to all parts of the prompt
- _____ All journal entries are clear and tell a cohesive story through their progression

**Organization**
- _____ Organization allows for a smooth and understandable unfolding of events.
- _____ Organization helps show the development of the character and events that occurred.

**Development of Ideas/Narrative Techniques**
- _____ Journal entries use narrative techniques like description and careful word choice to help readers feel what it might be like to experience this issue.

**Language and Conventions**
- _____ Journal entries have been carefully edited to ensure proper spelling, mechanics, and grammar.

Review your essay using the provided rubric.