

10.2.1 Mid-Unit Assessment

Text-Based Response

Your Task: Rely on your reading and analysis of paragraphs 1–21 of “Letter from Birmingham Jail” to write a well-developed response to the following prompt:

Determine King’s purpose in paragraphs 1-21 of “Letter from Birmingham Jail” and analyze how he uses rhetoric and specific word choices to advance that purpose.

Your writing will be assessed using the 10.2.1 Mid-Unit Text Analysis Rubric.

Guidelines

Be sure to:

- Closely read the prompt
- Address all elements of the prompt in your response
- Paraphrase, quote, and reference relevant evidence to support your claim
- Organize your ideas in a cohesive and coherent manner
- Maintain a formal style of writing
- Follow the conventions of standard written English

CCSS: RI.9-10.4, RI.9-10.6, W.9-10.2.a-f, W.9-10.9.b

Commentary on the Task:

This task measures RI.9-10.4 because it demands that students:

- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning.

This task measures RI.9-10.6 because it demands that students:

- Determine an author’s purpose in a text and analyze how an author uses rhetoric to advance that purpose.

This task measures W.9-10.2.a-f because it demands that students:

- Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.
 - Introduce a topic; organize complex ideas, concepts, and information to make important connections and distinctions; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., figures, tables),

and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.

- Develop the topic with well-chosen, relevant, and sufficient facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples appropriate to the audience's knowledge of the topic.
- Use appropriate and varied transitions to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships among complex ideas and concepts.
- Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to manage the complexity of the topic.
- Establish and maintain a formal style and objective tone while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing.
- Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented (e.g., articulating implications or the significance of the topic).

This task measures W.9-10.9.b because it demands that students:

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