

12.3.1 Mid-Unit Assessment

Text-Based Response

Your task: Rely on your reading and analysis of excerpts from *Guns, Germs, and Steel* to write a well-crafted, multi-paragraph response to the following prompt:

Choose an excerpt from Guns, Germs, and Steel. Identify one of Diamond's supporting claims; evaluate whether the evidence is relevant and sufficient and the reasoning is valid to support that claim.

Your response will be assessed using the 12.3.1 Mid-Unit Text Analysis Rubric.

Guidelines

Be sure to:

- Read the prompt closely.
- 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: CCRA.8, W.11-12.2 a-f

Commentary on the task:

This task measures CCRA.8 because it demands that students:

- 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.

This task measures W.11-12.2.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 so that each new element builds on that which precedes it to create a unified whole; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., figures, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.
 - Develop the topic thoroughly by selecting the most significant and relevant 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 and syntax to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships among complex ideas and concepts.
 - Use precise language, domain-specific vocabulary, and techniques such as metaphor, simile, and analogy 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).