



ACTIVITY 5: INDEPENDENT WRITING

Students write 1-3 sentences explaining their analysis of the text and list supporting textual details.

INSTRUCTIONAL NOTES

In Part 4 of the unit, students will be developing and practicing the skills of writing a detail-based explanation of a text they have read. In this activity, introduce the idea of what a text-based explanation entails, possibly modeling one for Text #2. Ask students to work from their Analyzing Details Tool completed in Activity 4 and to write several clear, coherent, and complete sentences that explain something from their analysis of Text #5, making sure to reference key details they have identified. Connect this writing activity to skills students have been working on with their earlier paraphrasing activities.



ASSESSMENT OPPORTUNITIES

At the end of Part 2, students will have:

- Completed a Questioning Texts Tool for Text #2
- Completed a Questioning Texts Tool for Text #5
- Annotated their texts to highlight details related to their text questioning
- Completed an Analyzing Texts Tool for Text #5 both as a class and independently
- Written an explanation of their analysis of the text, including supporting details
- Engaged in group and class discussions

The primary focus of evaluation at this stage should be on student ability to use questioning to focus their annotation and selection of details. Examine student Questioning Texts Tool to evaluate the formation of their text-specific questions and their relationship to the guiding questions. Examine their annotated texts and Analyzing Details Tool to evaluate the relevance of their selected details and their recorded thinking and connections. Evaluate the tools for evidence of students' reading and thinking; examine the short written explanations for their developing writing skills, paying attention to use of evidence and to word choice, punctuation, and grammar.

PART 3

ANALYZING DETAILS

"plausible secular purpose"

OBJECTIVE:

Students learn to analyze textual detail as a key to discovering meaning.
Students read, analyze, and compare texts.



ACTIVITIES

1- ANALYZING TEXTUAL DETAIL

Students listen to and then closely read and analyze a new text.

2- ANALYZING DETAILS ACROSS TEXTS

The teacher guides and supports students in a comparative discussion of the texts.

3- EXPLAINING AND COMPARING TEXTS

Student groups develop a comparative question and individually write a paragraph using their question.

4- INDEPENDENT READING ACTIVITY

Students independently read texts using a guiding question.

ESTIMATED TIME: 3 days

MATERIALS:

Texts #1-6
Questioning Texts Tool
Analyzing Details Tool
Reading Closely Checklist
Guiding Questions Handout



ALIGNMENT TO CCSS

TARGETED STANDARD(S): RI.11-12.1 RI.11-12.2 RI.11-12.6

RI.11-12.1: Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.

RI.11-12.2: Determine two or more central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text, including how they interact and build on one another to provide a complex analysis; provide an objective summary of the text.

RI.11-12.6: Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text in which the rhetoric is particularly effective, analyzing how style and content contribute to the power, persuasiveness, or beauty of the text.

SUPPORTING STANDARD(S): RI.11-12.4 RI.11-12.8

RI.11-12.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze how an author uses and refines the meaning of a key term or terms over the course of a text.

RI.11-12.8: Delineate and evaluate the reasoning in seminal U.S. texts, including the application of constitutional principles and use of legal reasoning (e.g., in U.S. Supreme Court majority opinions and dissents) and the premises, purposes, and arguments in works of public advocacy.



ACTIVITY 1: ANALYZING TEXTUAL DETAIL

Students listen to and then closely read and analyze a new text.

INSTRUCTIONAL NOTES

INTRODUCE AND READ TEXT #6 ALOUD

Students now engage a new text that presents a different point of view on the topic. As before, students listen to the text with no initial context provided other than what they have already learned from their study of previous, related texts.

INDEPENDENT READING

- Students complete the first parts of the Questioning Texts Tool, selecting Guiding Questions that relate to the *author's perspective*.
- Students read the text using their Guiding Questions to focus them on relevant details they can question further.

CLASS DISCUSSION

- Lead a discussion of the text focusing on difficult sections and key academic vocabulary.
- Students should draw on details they found related to their Guiding Questions in discussion.
- Have students develop text-specific questions about key details that emerge in discussion.

RE-READING TO ANALYZE DETAILS

- Students work in groups to hone text-specific questions.
- Students use their question to analyze the text with the Analyzing Details Tool.

CLASS DISCUSSION

- Discuss the connections students have made in a final class discussion of Text #6.

TEXTUAL NOTES

Text #6 issues the dissenting view to the Supreme Court's 2000 decision on prayer in public schools. It was delivered by Justice William Rehnquist, who was then serving as the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. It offers a detailed rebuttal of the court's decision on the grounds of the plausible secular purposes of certain church/state relations as exemplified in the debated policy. The text begins with the primary contentions of the dissenting party and then proceeds to demonstrate the unreasonableness of the Court's decision.

MODEL TEXT QUESTIONING SEQUENCE

Guiding Question(s):

- 1-What words or phrases are powerful or unique?
- 2- What words do I need to know to better understand the text?

Text-specific Question(s):

- 1-How does Justice Rehnquist define the word 'solemnizing'?
- 2-How does Justice Rehnquist's definition of the word 'solemnizing' support his argument?

ACTIVITY 2: ANALYZING DETAILS ACROSS TEXTS

The teacher guides and supports students in a comparative discussion of the texts.

INSTRUCTIONAL NOTES

CLASS DISCUSSION

- Students use their notes and tools from texts #5 and #6 to discuss how each author's use of language reflects his or her perspective on the subject.
- Ask students to present evidence from the text to support their assertions, and to connect their comments to the ideas that others have shared.
- Have students take notes and annotate their text during the conversation, capturing what peers say, how their ideas are changing, or connections/differences between texts.

TEXTUAL NOTES

The two opinions inherently contain different perspectives on both the nature of the First Amendment and its applicability in this particular case. There are many points to draw out in the comparative discussion.

MODEL TEXT QUESTIONING SEQUENCE

Guiding Question(s):

- 1- What ideas are described in detail?
- 2- What is the author saying about the topic?

Text-specific Question(s):

- 1- How does each Justice explain the role of the student election process and its relevance to the First Amendment?
- 2- How does each Justice interpret the policy's term 'solemnize' and its relevance to the First Amendment?

ACTIVITY 3: EXPLAINING AND COMPARING TEXTS

Student groups develop a comparative question and individually write a paragraph using their question.

INSTRUCTIONAL NOTES

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

- Students work in groups using their analyses of Texts #5 and #6 to come up with a comparative question.
- Support student groups as they develop their questions.

ACTIVITY 3: EXPLAINING AND COMPARING TEXTS (CONT'D)

INSTRUCTIONAL NOTES

WRITING COMPARATIVE ANALYSES

- Students draw from their notes, tools, annotated texts, and sentences from earlier activities to construct a paragraph answering their comparative question. Paragraphs should include:
 - ⇒ The comparative question
 - ⇒ 1-2 sentences explaining their analysis of Text #5 and key supporting details
 - ⇒ 1-2 sentences explaining their analysis of Text #6 and key supporting details
 - ⇒ 1-2 sentences explaining a connection they have made between the two texts that answers their comparative question
- Students construct the paragraph by:
 - ⇒ Introducing the topic, in this case the comparison made between the texts
 - ⇒ Organizing their information to clearly and logically express their ideas
 - ⇒ Developing the topic with appropriate supporting details
 - ⇒ Linking sentences with appropriate transitional words and phrases to clarify relationships and establish coherence
 - ⇒ Using precise language and an academic (formal) style of writing.
- In small groups, students read and peer-review their comparative paragraphs
 - ⇒ Prior to submission, an optional revision may be asked of the students based on peer feedback.
- Students submit paragraphs and their supporting materials.

ACTIVITY 4: INDEPENDENT READING

Students independently read texts using a guiding question.

INSTRUCTIONAL NOTES

This reading, which sets up Parts 4 and 5 of the unit, can be done as homework or in class, with more or less scaffolding depending on how students have been doing in previous reading experiences. On their own, students read Texts # 7, 8, & 9 - topic-related texts all written in a similar genre/mode, using Guiding Questions to set up a Questioning Texts Tool. At this point, students do not need to study any of the three texts, rather simply be familiar with them, so they can prepare themselves for analyzing one of the texts through close reading in Part 4 and for leading a comparative discussion in Part 5.

ASSESSMENT OPPORTUNITIES

In Part 3, students will have:

- Completed a Questioning Texts Tool for text #6 individually and in groups
- Completed an Analyzing Texts Tool based on their own text-specific questions
- Taken part in a group discussion about connections between texts #5 and #6
- Written a paragraph explaining their analysis of Texts #5 and #6 and making connections between them.

Use these work samples to both assess how the class is doing overall in the skills of close reading, questioning, analyzing details, comparing, and explaining, and to help determine which of the three texts students might be assigned to read and analyze for Parts 4 and 5 of the unit. Thus, their paragraphs potentially serve both as formative and diagnostic assessment. As before, student discussions provide opportunities to “listen in” and informally assess their speaking and listening skills, in anticipation of Part 5.