



## **Grade 8 English Language Arts**

**SAMPLE ITEMS**

## Introduction

The South Carolina Department of Education provides districts and schools with tools to assist in delivering focused instruction aligned with the South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Standards (SCCCRS). This document contains a set of twenty SC READY test items that have been written to align with the South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Standards. These items were reviewed for content and bias prior to being field tested and approved for release to the public.

## Purpose

This document is intended to be a resource for educators; it is not designed to be a practice test for students. The sample items are examples of college- and career-ready assessment items. These items were chosen to reflect the increased rigor of assessing the South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Standards. SC READY assesses content standards in a variety of ways. This document does not include all item types or standards.

## Item Information Format

<b>Indicator Alignment</b>	SCCCR
<b>Indicator Description</b>	text from SCCCR
<b>Answer Key</b>	correct answer
<b>Depth of Knowledge</b>	cognitive demand
<b>Estimated Difficulty</b>	estimate based on student responses

## Links

South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Standards

<https://ed.sc.gov/scdoe/assets/file/programs-services/59/documents/ELA2015SCCCRStandards.pdf>

Norman Webb's Depth-of-Knowledge for the Four Content Areas

<http://www.webbalign.org/Webbs-DOK-Levels-Summary.pdf>

1. A student learned that the famous American architect Frank Lloyd Wright believed in creating homes and buildings that conveyed cultural values of the United States. The student wants to research more about Frank Lloyd Wright and will write a report about the architect for the art teacher.

Which research question would lead the student to a deeper understanding of Frank Lloyd Wright's beliefs?

- A. How old was Frank Lloyd Wright when he began studying architecture?
- B. How much time did it take for an average Frank Lloyd Wright structure to be built?
- C. What are Frank Lloyd Wright's most famous structures?
- D. What techniques did Frank Lloyd Wright use to communicate ideas in his designs?

SC READY ELA Sample Item <b>1</b>	Indicator Alignment	8.1.0.1.1
	Indicator Description	Develop a range of questions to frame inquiry for new learning and deeper understanding.
	Answer Key	D
	Depth of Knowledge	2
	Estimated Difficulty	Low Difficulty

2. A student is writing a report about successful businesses. The student found two reliable sources. Read the sources and complete the task that follows.

**Source 1:** In 1908, Henry Ford created the famous Model T automobile. The car became somewhat popular, but Ford wanted it to reach a wider range of customers. He developed an assembly line process for producing his Model T automobile in 1913. By having different workers install specific parts as the vehicle moved slowly along a line, the cost and time needed to build the car was reduced. This made the Model T even more affordable, and, therefore, many more people bought the Ford car.

**Source 2:** McDonald's is one of the most successful businesses in the world. Something the restaurant is known for is its speed of service. When the first McDonald's opened in Southern California in the 1940s, it aimed to be a place for regular people to eat instead of most restaurants of the time that only wealthy people could afford. McDonald's installed a large grill and used spatulas that could flip multiple burgers at a time. Customers could get a large order of burgers and fries quickly because of the restaurant's "Speedee Service System." When Ray Kroc took over the McDonald's company and spread the eatery across the country, he continued to focus on making good food fast.

Which question would help the student broaden the focus of additional research?

- A. Why did businesses like Ford and McDonald's have an impact on American society?
- B. How many total businesses have been able to expand to other parts of the world?
- C. What would cause a person to support a business like Ford or McDonald's?
- D. When was the best time in history for someone to start a successful business?

SC READY ELA Sample Item     <b>2</b>	Indicator Alignment	8.1.0.3.2
	Indicator Description	Examine historical, social, cultural, or political context to broaden inquiry.
	Answer Key	A
	Depth of Knowledge	2
	Estimated Difficulty	Medium Difficulty

3. A student is planning a research report on apes for his science class and has taken some notes from reliable sources. Read the student's notes.

- communicates with others by using hand signals
- uses twigs as tools to get insects out of small holes in trees or the ground
- puts a stick into water to measure its depth before walking across

The student wants to organize the notes correctly. Under which heading should the student place the notes?

- A. Fearless Animals
- B. Intelligent Animals
- C. Playful Animals
- D. Careful Animals

SC READY ELA Sample Item <b>3</b>	Indicator Alignment	8.1.0.3.4
	Indicator Description	Organize and categorize important information, revise ideas, and report relevant findings.
	Answer Key	B
	Depth of Knowledge	2
	Estimated Difficulty	Low Difficulty

Use the following Sample Passage with Sample Items numbers 4 – 9.

### A Starring Role

The town crier hesitantly stepped onto the stage to announce the king’s ball but when he opened his mouth, nothing came out but a raspy squeak. It was the final dress rehearsal for our middle school play, *Cinderella*, and I had the leading role.

As the town crier, Samuel stood mutely frozen in place. Strolling onto the stage, I quickly improvised. I gently took the rolled scroll from his hands and declared, “The king is inviting everyone to a lavish ball!”

A second later, the actresses playing my stepsisters jumped in with their lines, and Samuel skittered off the stage. Thankfully, rehearsal continued without another hitch.

“Fantastic job, everyone,” boomed Mr. Lee, our director, when we finished.

“Nora, you’re a natural,” Marissa, my wicked stepmother, complimented me as we filed off the stage, and several other cast members echoed her praises.

Even Mr. Lee pulled me aside and mentioned, “Quick thinking and great expressions, Cinderella.”

Beaming with satisfaction, I strolled out. When I passed by Samuel, trudging along with his hands shoved in his pockets, I silently wondered why he had joined the production. He constantly jumbled his lines and seemed as jumpy as a nervous grasshopper.

“Hi, Nora,” Samuel mumbled as I breezed by, and I automatically tossed him a backhanded wave. I planned to get home and rehearse my lines again.

When the curtain rose on opening night, the sight of the audience sent a familiar electric current jolting through me. Thanks to our rehearsals at school and my practice at home, I knew my lines inside and out. Taking a deep, calming breath, I focused on becoming Cinderella—tragic, wistful, kind, and virtuous. The first scene flawlessly unfolded until Samuel awkwardly stampeded onstage.

In a frantic rush to deliver his lines, Samuel collided with a towering plywood tree, and it tumbled down, narrowly missing me. The audience gasped, and then rewarded my nimble dodge with applause and chuckles, but this was not supposed to be a comedy!

The set crew immediately removed the damaged tree, and the play resumed, but the cast was rattled. The wicked stepmother forgot her entrance, Prince Charming dropped the glass slipper, and the stepsisters skipped several lines—which confused me. When the curtain fell, the audience enthusiastically clapped, but it had been a lackluster performance.

After the show, Mr. Lee administered a rallying pep talk to the cast backstage; however, his words did not penetrate the dismal cloud surrounding me. As everyone chattered and gathered their belongings, I retreated to a bench to mope. That’s when I glanced sideways and observed Samuel’s despondent form, looking utterly miserable.



"It's my fault everything went wrong," Samuel sighed. "I thought it would be so exciting to try something new, but I'm awful at acting."

As I scrutinized Samuel's frustrated face, a distant, forgotten scene crept into my mind. In kindergarten, I had felt so overwhelmed when I first stepped onstage to sing "Clementine" that I exploded into tears. Somehow, I had let my years of experience erase the memory of that mortifying moment.

"Samuel, don't quit," I blurted. "Every actor makes mistakes." Then I launched into a description of my own embarrassing debut that eventually coaxed a reluctant smile from him.

"Why don't we write down all your lines on the scroll you always carry," I suggested next. "If you're not stressed about remembering them, you'll feel more relaxed. Plus, you have an excellent speaking voice; it sounds extremely official."

"Really?" Samuel replied, and when I nodded, he rewarded me with a full-fledged grin. Readily, he handed me his scroll. I grabbed a script and marker and printed all his lines on the scroll's fabric.

"I'm going to do so much better tomorrow night," Samuel proclaimed with a new, glittering thread of excitement. Smiling, we both stood to leave.

As I joined my parents in the auditorium, my encounter with Samuel kept replaying in my mind. *Why hadn't I volunteered my help sooner? If I wanted our play to be incredible, I needed to start giving my cast the same generous support they continually showered on me.*

That evening I marched into my bedroom and planted myself at my desk. Diligently, I began composing notes and my paper stack steadily grew. Each page carried its own unique and personalized message.

Marissa, your sharp voice gives the wicked stepmother an edge that slices into the audience's emotions.

Mitchell, your acting skills give Prince Charming a truly royal presence.

Danielle, your warm personality makes the audience fall in love with the fairy godmother whenever you appear on stage.

The next day, before our afternoon matinee, I distributed my messages to the cast. Bewildered, they unfolded the papers and read them. The positive words were like unexpected puffs of air blowing into a deflated balloon. The cast stood taller and an eager anticipation began buzzing through them. When the curtain rose, a transformed group took the stage.



That afternoon, Samuel capably delivered his lines, and our matinee received a standing ovation. When our cast joined hands for its final bow, a gratifying sense of triumph filled me. However, it was not for my starring role, but for a winning group performance.



4. Which sentence from the passage **best** supports the inference that Nora has confidence in her abilities as an actor?
- A. It was the final dress rehearsal for our middle school play, *Cinderella*, and I had the leading role.
  - B. Thanks to our rehearsals at school and my practice at home, I knew my lines inside and out.
  - C. The audience gasped, and then rewarded my nimble dodge with applause and chuckles, but this was not supposed to be a comedy!
  - D. Somehow, I had let my years of experience erase the memory of that mortifying moment.

SC READY ELA Sample Item	4	Indicator Alignment	8.RL.MC.5.1
		Indicator Description	Cite the evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
		Answer Key	B
		Depth of Knowledge	2
		Estimated Difficulty	Medium Difficulty

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

**Part A**

Which sentence **best** expresses a theme of the passage?

- A. Friendship must involve personal sacrifice.
- B. Overcoming fears is an important part of growing up.
- C. Small actions of one person can affect the success of an entire group.
- D. Talent is needed more than hard work when trying to achieve goals.

**Part B**

How is this theme developed over the course of the passage?

- A. through the use of figurative language
- B. through Nora’s dialogue with herself
- C. through the description of the setting
- D. through Nora’s dialogue with the director

<div> <div>SC READY ELA Sample Item</div> <div>5</div> </div>	Indicator Alignment	8.RL.MC.6.1
	Indicator Description	Determine one or more themes and analyze the development and relationships to character, setting, and plot over the course of a text; provide an objective summary.
	Answer Key	Part A: C; Part B: B
	Depth of Knowledge	3
	Estimated Difficulty	High Difficulty

6. How does Nora's memory of her kindergarten performance help to propel the action in the story?
- A. It encourages Nora when she is feeling bad about herself.
  - B. It motivates Nora to practice harder before she performs again.
  - C. It gives Nora a funny story to tell Samuel and the cast so that they can laugh.
  - D. It inspires Nora to change her behavior toward Samuel and the rest of the cast.

SC READY ELA Sample Item

6

<b>Indicator Alignment</b>	<b>8.RL.MC.8.1</b>
<b>Indicator Description</b>	Analyze how dialogue and/or incidents propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision; determine the impact of contextual influences on setting, plot, and characters.
<b>Answer Key</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>Depth of Knowledge</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Estimated Difficulty</b>	<b>High Difficulty</b>



8. Which sentence **best** demonstrates two different perspectives toward the school play?
- A. As the town crier, Samuel stood mutely frozen in place.
  - B. Taking a deep, calming breath, I focused on becoming Cinderella—tragic, wistful, kind, and virtuous.
  - C. The audience gasped, and then rewarded my nimble dodge with applause and chuckles, but this was not supposed to be a comedy!
  - D. That evening I marched into my bedroom and planted myself at my desk.

SC READY ELA Sample Item	8	Indicator Alignment	8.RL.LCS.11.1
		Indicator Description	Analyze how the author's development of perspectives of the characters and the reader create suspense or humor.
		Answer Key	C
		Depth of Knowledge	2
		Estimated Difficulty	Medium Difficulty

9. Read the paragraph from the passage.

As I joined my parents in the auditorium, my encounter with Samuel kept replaying in my mind. *Why hadn't I volunteered my help sooner? If I wanted our play to be incredible, I needed to start giving my cast the same generous support they continually showered on me.*

How do the italicized words impact the meaning?

- A. by revealing the exact words that Nora thinks to herself
- B. by conveying the questions that Nora asks her fellow actors
- C. by indicating the general thoughts that Nora expresses to Samuel
- D. by emphasizing the memories that Nora has of performing with Samuel

SC READY ELA Sample Item	9	Indicator Alignment	8.RL.LCS.12.2
		Indicator Description	Analyze the author's choice of structures within the text and draw conclusions about how they impact meaning.
		Answer Key	A
		Depth of Knowledge	2
		Estimated Difficulty	Medium Difficulty

Use the following Sample Passage with Sample Items numbers 10 – 16.

### Jackie Robinson, Baseball Legend

It takes courage to be the first. For Jackie Robinson, being the first African-American player in 60 years to participate in Major League Baseball took strength and courage. In addition to being a talented athlete, he also earned an historic place in the world of sports.

#### Glimpsing his Future

In 1919, Jack Roosevelt Robinson was born in the town of Cairo, Georgia. He was one of four children, and he loved to play sports. Because he was such an excellent athlete, all the local teams wanted him to play for them.

Robinson also loved movies and often went to the theater. There he learned about a successful African-American boxer named Joe Louis. Robinson was impressed by Louis's achievements and began to look up to him as a hero. Robinson did not know it at the time, but he would also go on to become a professional athlete and a hero to many, including Louis himself.

#### A Winding Road to Success

While he was in college at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), Robinson became a sports legend, setting records in football, baseball, basketball, and track. Partway through earning his degree, however, his mother needed help taking care of his siblings, so Robinson decided to quit school to offer his support. He joined the Army for a couple of years, then went to Hawaii to play football professionally. In 1946, he married Rachel Isum, with whom he would go on to have three children.

When Robinson heard that the Kansas City Monarchs baseball team was scouting new players, he knew it could be his big opportunity. Robinson not only made the team but soon became its star player. Not long after, in 1947, Branch Rickey, the president of the Brooklyn Dodgers, was looking for new players for the team. He saw Robinson and immediately knew that Robinson was a strong, confident, and superb player. He invited Robinson to join the team.

#### An Historic Step

Joining the Dodgers involved an especially significant consideration for Robinson. The Kansas City Monarchs—and many other teams at the time—consisted only of African-American players and were part of a league called the Negro League. However, the Major Leagues and its teams, including the Dodgers, had not had an African-American player since the year 1889. Robinson knew it could be difficult to integrate into the long-segregated Major Leagues, but he was up for the challenge. He wanted to take steps to ensure greater racial equality for all.

Not everyone accepted Robinson as part of the team. Some fans and even teammates were unkind to him, even when he was playing on the field, and it sometimes took incredible strength and confidence for Robinson to continue his game. Right away,



however, he proved himself as a top Major-League athlete. At the end of his first year with the Dodgers, he was named the National League Rookie of the Year. Just two years later, in 1949, Robinson won Most Valuable Player. With Robinson's help, the Dodgers won six pennants, as well as a World Series Championship.

### Well-Deserved Honors

Robinson played with the Dodgers through early 1957. During his time with them, little by little, baseball began to change, and more African-American players joined the Major Leagues. Robinson had been the trailblazer who helped make their careers possible. Meanwhile, Robinson recalled his admiration for boxer Joe Louis and credited Louis for making great strides in racial equality. "I certainly feel that the path for me and others to the big leagues was made easier by the performance and conduct of Joe Louis both in and out of the ring," Robinson said. Louis also held Robinson in high esteem. In 1970, he was quoted as saying, "Jackie is my hero."

In 1962, Robinson was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame. One of his most famous quotes is "Life is not a spectator sport. . . If you're going to spend your whole life in the grandstand just watching what goes on, in my opinion you're wasting your life." Robinson's life was certainly one well lived. When he died in 1972, he received many tributes. In 1997, for the 50th anniversary of his recruitment to the Dodgers, the United States Postal Service honored him by releasing a Jackie Robinson commemorative stamp. Today, Robinson is still admired and remembered for his great skill and sportsmanship.



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

**Part A**

Which conclusion about Jackie Robinson is **best** supported by information in the passage?

- A. Jackie Robinson went out of his way to be friendly to new team members.
- B. Jackie Robinson made personal sacrifices to ensure the welfare of his family.
- C. Jackie Robinson had difficulty deciding what career he wanted to pursue.
- D. Jackie Robinson wanted to become financially rich by playing baseball.

**Part B**

Which sentence from the passage most strongly supports the answer in part A?

- A. Partway through earning his degree, however, his mother needed help taking care of his siblings, so Robinson decided to quit school to offer his support.
- B. He joined the Army for a couple of years, then went to Hawaii to play football professionally.
- C. When Robinson heard that the Kansas City Monarchs baseball team was scouting new players, he knew it could be his big opportunity.
- D. At the end of his first year with the Dodgers, he was named the National League Rookie of the Year.

<b>10</b>	Indicator Alignment	8.RI.MC.5.1
	Indicator Description	Cite the evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
	Answer Key	Part A: B; Part B: A
	Depth of Knowledge	3
	Estimated Difficulty	Medium Difficulty

11. Which is the **best** summary of the passage?

- A. Jackie Robinson was born in 1919 in the town of Cairo, Georgia. There were four children in his family. When he was young, he enjoyed sports. He set records in football, basketball, and track. He played professional football in Hawaii. He also enjoyed going to the movies. For a little while, he went to the University of California, Los Angeles. Later, he joined a professional baseball team and proved that he was a great athlete. He was named the National League Rookie of the Year and later won the Most Valuable Player award.
- B. Jackie Robinson was born in Georgia and was one of four children. He was a very good athlete and could play most sports. He played football, baseball, basketball, and track. He set many records. After he left college, Robinson met a man named Branch Rickey. Rickey was the president of the Brooklyn Dodgers baseball team and wanted new players. He asked Robinson to join the team. Robinson joined the professional team and set many records for them. At the end of his first year of professional baseball, Robinson won the Rookie of the Year award. The United States Postal Service eventually put his picture on a stamp.
- C. Jackie Robinson was born in 1919 in the town of Cairo, Georgia. Robinson excelled at different sports in college, including football, baseball, basketball and track. In 1947, Robinson tried out for and was asked to join the Brooklyn Dodgers, which was a major-league baseball team. This was a significant achievement since major league baseball teams had not included African-American players since 1889. In 1949, Robinson won the Most Valuable Player award for his achievements with the Brooklyn Dodgers. In 1997, the United States Postal Service released a commemorative Jackie Robinson Stamp.
- D. Jackie Robinson was born in Georgia and was one of four children. He was a good athlete and played football, baseball, basketball, and track. He enjoyed the movies. When he went to the movies, he learned about a boxer named Joe Louis. Robinson considered Louis one of his heroes. Robinson left college to help his mother take care of his siblings. Later in life, a man named Branch Rickey asked Robinson to join the Brooklyn Dodgers, a professional baseball team. Robinson set many records. Robinson eventually became a hero to Joe Louis.

SC READY ELA Sample Item	Indicator Alignment	8.RI.MC.6.1
	Indicator Description	Provide an objective summary of a text with two or more central ideas; cite key supporting details to analyze their development.
	11 Answer Key	C
	Depth of Knowledge	2
	Estimated Difficulty	Medium Difficulty

12. Which sentences from the passage **best** support the central idea that Jackie Robinson was a talented athlete? Choose **two** answers.
- A. While he was in college at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), Robinson became a sports legend, setting records in football, baseball, basketball, and track.
  - B. Not long after, in 1947, Branch Rickey, the president of the Brooklyn Dodgers, was looking for new players for the team.
  - C. Not everyone accepted Robinson as part of the team.
  - D. Just two years later, in 1949, Robinson won Most Valuable Player.
  - E. Meanwhile, Robinson recalled his admiration for boxer Joe Louis and credited Louis for making great strides in racial equality.

SC READY ELA Sample Item	Indicator Alignment	8.RI.MC.6.1
	Indicator Description	Provide an objective summary of a text with two or more central ideas; cite key supporting details to analyze their development.
	12 Answer Key	A,D
	Depth of Knowledge	2
	Estimated Difficulty	Medium Difficulty

13. Read the sentences from the passage.

Robinson played with the Dodgers through early 1957. During his time with them, little by little, baseball began to change, and more African-American players joined the Major Leagues. Robinson had been the trailblazer who helped make their careers possible. Meanwhile, Robinson recalled his admiration for boxer Joe Louis and credited Louis for making great strides in racial equality.

How does the word trailblazer impact meaning in the passage?

- A. by describing Robinson's life in the Major Leagues
- B. by emphasizing Robinson's role as a pioneer
- C. by emphasizing Robinson's respect for Joe Lewis
- D. by describing Robinson's ability on the field

SC READY ELA Sample Item	13	Indicator Alignment	8.RI.LCS.8.1
		Indicator Description	Determine figurative, connotative, and technical meanings of words and phrases used in a text; analyze the impact of specific words, phrases, analogies, or allusions on meaning and tone.
		Answer Key	B
		Depth of Knowledge	2
		Estimated Difficulty	High Difficulty



15. How do the headings contribute to the development of the author's ideas in the passage?
- A. The headings compare the skills that Jackie Robinson had with the skills of other athletes of the time.
  - B. The headings summarize the important jobs in Jackie Robinson's career.
  - C. The headings categorize each of the difficulties Jackie Robinson faced during his life.
  - D. The headings provide an outline of Jackie Robinson's transformation into a successful athlete.

<b>SC READY ELA Sample Item</b>	<b>Indicator Alignment</b>	<b>8.RI.LCS.11.1</b>
	<b>Indicator Description</b>	Analyze the impact of text features and structures on authors' similar ideas or claims about the same topic.
	<b>15 Answer Key</b>	<b>D</b>
	<b>Depth of Knowledge</b>	<b>2</b>
	<b>Estimated Difficulty</b>	<b>Medium Difficulty</b>

16. Read the claim about Jackie Robinson.

Jackie Robinson's baseball career has great historical significance.

Which sentence provides relevant support for this claim?

- A. However, the Major Leagues and its teams, including the Dodgers, had not had an African-American player since the year 1889.
- B. Some fans and even teammates were unkind to him, even when he was playing on the field, and it sometimes took incredible strength and confidence for Robinson to continue his game.
- C. Robinson played with the Dodgers through early 1957.
- D. Robinson's life was certainly one well lived.

SC READY ELA Sample Item	Indicator Alignment	8.RI.LCS.11.2
	Indicator Description	Analyze and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; recognize when irrelevant evidence is introduced.
	Answer Key	A
	Depth of Knowledge	3
	Estimated Difficulty	Medium Difficulty

17. A student is writing a letter to the school principal. Read the draft of the letter and complete the task that follows.

Dear Principal Wells,

In order to relieve problems related to homework at Harkins Middle School, I propose the school schedule be extended by one hour. The extra time could be devoted solely to students completing class assignments and teachers assisting those who need help with homework. With an additional hour, students could focus on getting tasks done without the distractions that are common outside of school like television, siblings, and chores. Sometimes teachers run out of time in class to present material in new ways. The added hour could be used to give students the extra support necessary to master the concepts being taught. This change in schedule would solve almost all issues related to incomplete and missing student assignments. Even though people enjoy getting out of school to do fun activities like sports, music, or club meetings, those events can happen an hour later.

Sincerely,

Joseph Grant

Which sentence provides the **best** conclusion to the paragraph?

- A. Both the teachers and students know that completing assignments and developing life skills are important.
- B. The sacrifice of an added hour would help the school and the students achieve their learning goals.
- C. After-school activities occurring later would be fine, especially since students would have little to no homework in the evening.
- D. If additional time were added to the school day, teachers might need to make adjustments to their after-school schedules as well.

SC READY ELA Sample Item	17	Indicator Alignment	8.W.MCC.1.1i
		Indicator Description	Write arguments that provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument.
		Answer Key	B
		Depth of Knowledge	2
		Estimated Difficulty	Medium Difficulty



18. A student is writing a report on Mt. Rushmore. Read part of the report.

Many people know of the famous faces that are carved on Mt. Rushmore, in the Black Hills of Keystone, South Dakota, but some have never heard the reasons why the four faces were chosen.

George Washington was chosen to be on Mt. Rushmore because he is the father of our country. He led the colonists when they fought for their independence from Great Britain in the American Revolution. George Washington needed to be on Mt.

Rushmore because he represents the birth of America.

Thomas Jefferson was the main author of the Declaration of Independence. He also greatly increased the size of America through the purchase of the Louisiana Territory. The image of Jefferson represents the expanding nation.

Theodore Roosevelt represents the development and economic growth that America was experiencing in the early twentieth century. Roosevelt helped to link the east and the west by playing a key role in the development of the Panama Canal.

Abraham Lincoln represents the United States being preserved after a terrible civil war. Lincoln abolished slavery and believed it was his job to preserve the nation.

Which sentence provides the **best** concluding statement for the information in the report?

- A. The faces of four great presidents are on Mt. Rushmore, each chosen to represent a different time in America's history.
- B. Only the most famous presidents were considered when trying to decide whose faces were to be carved onto Mt. Rushmore.
- C. Abraham Lincoln is the most memorable face on Mt. Rushmore because he kept our nation together.
- D. Another great president's face may someday be carved onto Mt. Rushmore.

SC READY ELA Sample Item	Indicator Alignment	8.W.MCC.2.1m
	Indicator Description	Write informative/explanatory texts that provide a concluding statement or section that follows and supports the information or explanation presented.
	Answer Key	A
	Depth of Knowledge	3
	Estimated Difficulty	Medium Difficulty

19. Read the paragraph.

Our local park is taken care of by groups of volunteers. Each month, the park has its trash picked up by a different group of volunteers. Every group of volunteers must take a training class before being allowed to clean the park. Most volunteers have a pleasant experience.

How could the paragraph be rewritten using only the active voice?

- A. Groups of volunteers take care of our local park. A different group of volunteers picks up the park's trash each month. A training class must be taken by every group of volunteers before being allowed to clean the park. Most volunteers have a pleasant experience.
- B. Our local park is taken care of by groups of volunteers. Each month, the park has its trash picked up by a different group volunteers. Every group of volunteers must take a training class before being allowed to clean the park. A pleasant experience is had by most volunteers.
- C. Our local park is taken care of by groups of volunteers. Each month, the park has its trash picked up by a different group volunteers. A training class must be taken by every group of volunteers before being allowed to clean the park. A pleasant experience is had by most volunteers.
- D. Groups of volunteers take care of our local park. A different group of volunteers picks up the park's trash each month. Taking the training class will allow the volunteers to clean the park. Most volunteers have a pleasant experience.

SC READY ELA Sample Item	Indicator Alignment	8.W.L.4.1b
	Indicator Description	When writing form and use verbs in the active and passive voice.
	19 Answer Key	D
	Depth of Knowledge	2
	Estimated Difficulty	High Difficulty

20. Read the paragraph about printer ink.

Printer ink is the most expensive liquid most people will ever buy. An ink cartridge for a home printer usually contains only a few ounces of black ink. The cost of a typical ink cartridge could be as high as forty dollars, about half the cost of an average printer. With the exception of luxury items such as fancy perfumes ordinary black ink is by far the most expensive liquid people purchase.

Which is the correct way to use commas to punctuate the last sentence of the paragraph?

- A. With the exception, of luxury items such as fancy perfumes, ordinary black ink is by far the most expensive liquid people purchase.
- B. With the exception of luxury items such as fancy perfumes ordinary, black ink, is by far the most expensive liquid people purchase.
- C. With the exception of luxury items such as fancy perfumes, ordinary black ink is by far the most expensive liquid people purchase.
- D. With the exception of luxury items such as fancy perfumes ordinary black ink is by far, the most expensive liquid people purchase.

SC READY ELA Sample Item	Indicator Alignment	8.W.L.5.2a
	Indicator Description	Use commas, ellipses, and dashes to indicate a pause, break, or omission
	20 Answer Key	C
	Depth of Knowledge	2
	Estimated Difficulty	Low Difficulty