

Creating Performance Tasks: Task Frames in Social Studies

Task Frames	Task Ideas
Gather information from primary and secondary sources to evaluate historical claims or interpretations.	Research various historical claims/interpretations regarding the rationale for the United States entering into the Vietnam war or the 2nd Iraq war. Use at least two primary source materials and include at least two interviews with veterans or citizens. Prepare to communicate your findings and your evaluation of the various claims/interpretations.
Critically analyze current events/ issues to reach a decision or pose a solution to a problem.	Analyze current debates over national immigration policy. Compare the different points of view on the issue. Analyze various factors including “push-pull” and cause-effect. Propose a policy that you favor and provide reasons and evidence for your position.
Make predictions for _____ (current or future events or issues) based on understanding of historical patterns.	Compare the Arab Spring with previous cases of popular uprising, revolution, insurrection and civil conflict. Make a prediction: Will governments in middle eastern countries become more or less democratic in the Middle east within the next five years?
Act as a responsible citizen by _____ (e.g., staying informed, studying issues, participating in community events, expressing opinions respectfully, voting).	Develop a position [for or against] a proposal affecting students (e.g., mandatory school uniforms, allowing cell phones to be kept on during class). Select information from articles and interviews with teachers, parents and students to prepare your argument. Be sure to consider and address predictable objections to your position. Prepare to present your argument and support to the PTO Council or School Board via a 90 second oral presentation.
• Whose story is this? Identify and explain differing points of view about _____.	Identify and explain differing points of view about the display of the Confederate flag on government buildings and in public places.

Creating Performance Tasks: Task Frames in Mathematics

Task Frames	Task Ideas
Create a mathematical model/representation of _____ (e.g., quantity, size, rate, motion, change).	Create a mathematical model to use in evaluating International stock funds using data from the past 5 years. Which funds would you recommend to an investor?
Make and justify predictions or decisions based on pattern analysis.	Predict the winning time of the women’s marathon event in the next two Olympic games based on the pattern of the winning times in previous games. Explain your reasoning. Compared the women’s marathon times to the men’s times since 1984. Given the results, will the women ever run faster? If so, in what year? Explain your answer.
Design a physical structure.	Design a 3-dimensional shipping container to maximize volume and safety for shipping glass marbles. What shape and size container do you propose? Explain your reasoning.
Collect, organize, record, analyze and display data.	Collect data about student “favorites” such as music, movies, video games, actors, school subjects, hobbies, foods, beverages, etc. Organize and analyze the results. Decide on an effective method to present your findings (e.g., a blog, poster, article, podcast).
Evaluate a mathematical or statistical claim.	Claim: 50% of all Americans eat at least one meal at a fast food restaurant every week. How would you go about evaluating this claim?
Correct flawed mathematical reasoning.	Ricardo said, “Four plus three times two is 14.” Angela replied, “No, it’s 10.” Did someone make a mistake? Explain the reasons that they came up with the different solutions. Then, tell which one is correct and explain why.

Creating Performance Tasks: Task Frames in Science

Task Frames	Task Ideas
<p>Design and conduct an investigation/experiment to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • answer (a question) • explain (a phenomena) 	<p>Design and conduct an investigation to determine which of three different brands of paper towels are most absorbent. Create a data table to record your observations and document your procedure so that others can follow it to replicate your investigation.</p>
<p>Effectively use scientific tools to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Observe _____ o Collect data on _____ o Measure _____ o Record data about _____ o Classify _____ o Draw conclusions about _____ 	<p>Use pH strips to test water samples from three different sources (e.g., water fountain, local stream or pond, collected rainwater, bottled carbonated water). Conduct at least two tests for each sample. Record and analyze your data. Draw a conclusion from the results and be prepared to explain it.</p>
<p>Evaluate a claim involving science.</p>	<p>Evaluate the claim: Following a strict high protein diet is a safe way to lose weight. Do you believe this claim? What does the evidence suggest?</p>
<p>Analyze current issues involving science or technology to reach a decision or pose a solution to a problem.</p>	<p>Explore the issue: Is hydraulic fracturing (fracking) an environmentally safe way to extract oil and natural gas from bedrock? Research the question using valid information sources. Consider the points of view of consumers, people residing near fracking sites, energy industry members, local businesses and environmentalists. Then, develop a position with reasons to convince voters to vote for your position. Be prepared to respond to predictable objections. (Can be presented in written form, orally, in a debate format.)</p>
<p>Critique experimental design or conclusions.</p>	<p>Carefully review students' science fair projects involving experimental design. Was the investigation sound? For example, were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • procedures consistently applied? • variables isolated? • sufficient samples taken? • data accurately recorded? • logical conclusions drawn from data?

Cornerstone Tasks: Idea Starters in English/ Language Arts and World Languages

	<u>Task Ideas</u>
Read and respond to text in various genres (literature, non-fiction, technical) through: <ul style="list-style-type: none">o Global understanding (the “gist”)o Interpretation (between the lines)o Critical Stanceo Personal Connections	
Create oral or written pieces in various genre for various audiences in order to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">o Explain (narrative)o Entertain (creative)o Persuade (persuasive)o Help perform a task (technical)o Challenge or change things (satirical)	
Listen to various sources (e.g., lecture, radio commercial) for various purposes, including for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">o Learningo Enjoymento Performing a tasko Reaching a decision	
Create multi-media pieces in various genre for various audiences in order to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">o Explain (narrative)o Entertain (creative)o Persuade (persuasive)o Help perform a task (technical)o Challenge or change things (satirical)	
Other: _____	

The Literacy Design Collaborative Task Templates

Funded through the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Literacy Design Collaborative (LDC) has developed a set of Modules designed to support the integration of the Common Core Standards (6-12) in English/ Language Arts with core content in Science, Social Studies and Technical areas. Each Module consists of a task and associated instructional procedures intended to provide a rigorous, authentic classroom experience for students at the secondary level.

The Tasks require students to read, analyze, and comprehend written materials and then write cogent arguments, explanations, or narratives in the subjects they are studying. A key feature of the LDC's work is a set of generic Task Templates -- fill-in-the-blank "shells" that allow teachers to design their own tasks.

Here are several samples:

Argumentation Task Template

After researching _____ (informational texts) on _____ (content topic or issue), write a/an _____ (essay or substitute) that argues your position on _____ (topic, issue, essential question). Support your position with evidence from research. Be sure to acknowledge competing views. Give examples from from past or current events issues to illustrate and clarify your position.

Social Studies Example:

After researching academic articles on **censorship**, write a/an **blog or editorial** that argues your position on **the use of Internet filters by schools**. Support your position with evidence from research. Be sure to acknowledge competing views.

ELA Example:

What makes something something funny? After reading selections from **Mark Twain and Dave Barry**, write a **review** that **compares their their humor** and argues **which type of humor works for a contemporary audience and why**. Be sure to support your position with evidence from the texts.. Be sure to support your position with evidence from the texts.

Informational or Explanatory Task Template

[Insert question] After reading _____ (literature or informational texts), write a/an _____ (essay, report, article, or substitute) that defines and explains (term or concept). Support your discussion with evidence from the text(s). What _____ (conclusions or implications) can you draw?

Social Studies Example:

What did the authors of the American Constitution mean by "rights"? After reading the **Bill of Rights**, write an **essay** that defines **"rights"** and explains **"rights" as the authors use it in this foundational document**. Support your discussion with evidence from the text. What implications can you draw?

The Literacy Design Collaborative Task Templates Science Task Samples

Funded through the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Literacy Design Collaborative (LDC) has developed a set of Modules designed to support the integration of the Common Core Standards (6-12) in English/ Language Arts with core content in Science and Technical areas. Each Module consists of a task and associated instructional procedures. The Tasks require students to read, analyze, and comprehend written materials and then write cogent explanations or arguments related to topics they are studying. A key feature of the LDC's work is a set of generic Task Templates -- fill-in-the-blank "shells" that allow teachers to design their own tasks. Here are several samples:

Informational or Explanatory Task Template

[Insert question] After reading _____ (informational texts), write a/an _____ (essay, report, article, or substitute) that defines and explains (term or concept). Support your discussion with evidence from the text(s). What _____ (conclusions or implications) can you draw?

After reading **various sources on the issue of water contamination**, write a (**report, article**) that explains the causes and the effects of contamination. What conclusion or implications can you draw? **Cite at least four sources, pointing out key elements from each source.** Include a bibliography of your sources. Support your discussion with evidence from the text. What implications can you draw? (Informational or Explanatory/Synthesis)

How can energy be changed from one form into another? After reading **scientific sources on energy transformation**, write a report that examines the **causes of energy transformation and explains the effects when energy is transformed.** What conclusions or implications can you draw? Support your discussion with evidence from the texts. (Informational or Explanatory/Cause-Effect)

Argumentation Task Template

After researching _____ (informational texts) on _____ (content topic or issue), write a/an _____ (essay or substitute) that argues your position on _____ (topic, issue, essential question). Support your position with evidence from research. Be sure to acknowledge competing views. Give examples from from past or current events issues to illustrate and clarify your position.

After researching **technical and academic articles on the use of pesticides in agriculture**, write a (**speech, blog, podcast, letter to editor**) that argues your position, pro or con, on the use of pesticides in managing crop production. Support your position with evidence from your research. Be sure to examine competing views. (Argumentation/Analysis)

After researching **scientific and technical sources on methods for preventing water shortages**, write a **proposal in which you identify a problem faced by communities in arid regions and argue for a solution to improve water availability.** Support your position with evidence from your research. Be sure to examine a competing view challenging your solution. Give an example from past or current events to illustrate and clarify your position. (Argumentation/Problem-Solution)

The Literacy Design Collaborative Task Templates

Elementary Level

You may choose to add one or more of these D's (demands) to a template task to increase the challenge. Note that you can choose to use the demands in isolation or you can combine multiple demands.

D1 Include a _____ (**retelling, recounting, summary**) in your response.

D2 Include _____ (specific or #) _____ (**key detail/s or example/s**) from the text/s in your response.

D3 What _____ (**conclusion or lesson**) can you draw _____ (content)?

D4 **Connect** _____ (content) and _____ (content) in your response.

D5 Include _____ (**charts/tables/illustrations**) to help convey your message to your readers.

D6 Explain how _____ (key detail/s or example/s) from the text **support/s** your _____ (**opinion, discussion, or response**).

D7 Explain how _____ (key detail/s, historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in a technical procedure) and _____ (key detail/s, historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in a technical procedure) are _____ (**connected or related**).

D8 Other: _____

Creating Performance Tasks: Task Frames in Health/Physical Education

Task Frames	Task Ideas
Engage in healthful activities and behaviors. Make healthful choices and decisions regarding diet, exercise, stress management, alcohol & drug use, etc.	Write a story about a character who learns of the importance of following a healthy lifestyle and changes his/her behavior to do so.
Be an advocate: Encourage others to engage in healthful activities and behaviors to promote wellness throughout one's life..	Develop a comic book for younger students to illustrate: 1) to illustrate the importance of good nutrition; 2) examples of balanced meals that can tasks good; and 4) potential health problems that can result poor nutrition.
Develop and implement a plan to improve _____. Track data and set new performance goals.	Develop a personal fitness plan to improve your: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• strength• endurance• flexibility• skills in a selected sport
Other:	
Other:	

Creating Performance Tasks: Task Frames for CREATIVE THINKING

Task Frames	Task Ideas
<p>Product <i>Create a product that is original and useful by meeting a need or solving a problem.</i></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Your design team has the goal of improving the utility, comfort and style of backpacks currently on the market. After collecting research, create a minimum of five sketches of your first suggestions related to design improvements. Next, you should prioritize your designs by selecting one for the creation of advanced sketches and in three separate views to include dimensions, volume, zipper locations, logo design and placement, as well as colors and material selections.</p>
<p>Process <i>Invent or improve a process that is unique and more effective and/or efficient than previous processes.</i></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Develop a process to improve your school’s reporting system. Consider <i>what</i> should be reported (e.g., achievement, work habits, participation, attendance, behavior), <i>how</i> it should be reported (e.g., letter grades, percentages, rubric scores, narrative report) and the medium (e.g., a quarterly report card, online, via parent conferences). Your goal is a process that is fair, consistent across teachers and understandable to students and parents.</p>
<p>Performance <i>Develop a performance that is innovative and accomplishes its purpose for an intended audience.</i></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Your task is to work with your team to create, rehearse and deliver an original non-verbal performance (e.g., mime, dance, tableau) to express the theme of a selected story. Your goal is to entertain your viewers (e.g., parents, younger students) while conveying the story line and the emotional responses of the main characters.</p>

Creating Performance Tasks: Task Frames for **CRITICAL THINKING** and **PROBLEM SOLVING**

Task Frames	Task Ideas
<p>Critical Thinking Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ analyze an issue or position○ evaluate the effectiveness of an argument○ evaluate quality of sources○ evaluate quality of evidence○ identify varied perspectives○ distinguish fact from opinion○ distinguish relevant/irrelevant○ challenge assumptions○ identify a conflict of interest○ other: _____	
<p>Problem Solving Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ determine the nature of the need or problem○ identify obstacles/barriers○ distinguish symptoms from root causes○ represent the problem○ generate possible solutions○ evaluate solution options○ develop an implementation plan○ monitor results and adjust actions as needed○ other: _____	

Creating Performance Tasks: Task Frames for COMMUNICATION

Task Frames	Task Ideas
<p>Purpose <i>What is the purpose of this communication?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ inform○ entertain○ persuade○ evoke emotion○ critique○ commemorate○ challenge○ other: _____	
<p>Audience(s) <i>For whom is this communication intended?</i></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	
<p>Form/Media <i>Through what form or media will this communication be conveyed?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">writtenoralvisual/graphicmulti-mediakinesthetic/movement (non verbal)other: _____	