

ELA.09.CR.1.11.092 C1 T11, T8

Sample Item ID:	ELA.09.CR.1.11.092
Grade/Model:	9/2
Claim:	1: Students can read closely and analytically to comprehend a range of increasingly complex literary and informational texts.
Assessment Target:	11. REASONING & EVALUATION: Apply reasoning and a range of textual evidence to or justify analyses of author's presentation of information (author's line of reasoning, point of view/purpose; relevance of evidence or elaboration to support claims; development or connections among complex concepts ideas).
Secondary Target(s):	8. KEY DETAILS: Identify explicit text evidence to support inferences made or conclusions drawn about texts.
Standard(s):	RI-6, RH-6, RST-6, RI-8, RH-8, RST-8
DOK:	3
Difficulty:	Medium
Item Type:	Constructed Response
Score Points:	0,1,2,3,4
Correct Response:	See rubric
Stimuli/Passage(s):	NASA Gives Public New Internet Tool To Explore The Solar System
Stimuli/Text Complexity:	The Lexile and F-K are fairly high, most likely due to the vocabulary demands. However the information is fairly straightforward and students should be able to navigate the parts of the passage that have less familiar information. There is nothing terribly abstract about the ideas. Based on these sets of measures, this passage is recommended for assessment at grade 9. Please see text complexity worksheet attached.
Acknowledgement(s):	http://www.nasa.gov/home/hqnews/2011/sep/HQ_11-288_System_Eyes.html
Notes:	
How this task contributes to the sufficient evidence for this claim:	To complete this task, students must determine the author's purpose and analyze how he/she constructs the passage to reinforce the purpose.
Target-specific attributes (e.g., accessibility issues):	This task requires students to enter text using a keyboard.

Stimulus Text:

Read the following text and then answer the question.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) leads research in space exploration and aeronautics.

NASA Gives Public New Internet Tool To Explore The Solar System

PASADENA, Calif. -- NASA is giving the public the power to journey through the solar system using a new interactive Web-based tool.

The "Eyes on the Solar System" interface combines video game technology and NASA data to create an environment for users to ride along with agency spacecraft and explore the cosmos. Screen graphics and information such as planet locations and spacecraft maneuvers use actual space mission data.

"This is the first time the public has been able to see the entire solar system and our missions moving together in real-time," said Jim Green, director of NASA's Planetary Science Division at the agency's Headquarters in Washington. "It demonstrates NASA's continued commitment to share our science with everyone."

The virtual environment uses the Unity game engine to display models of planets, moons, asteroids, comets and spacecraft as they move through our solar system. With keyboard and mouse controls, users cruise through space to explore anything that catches their interest. A free browser plug-in, available at the site, is required to run the Web application.

"You are now free to move about the solar system," said Blaine Baggett, executive manager in the Office of Communication and Education at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, Calif. "See what NASA's spacecraft see -- and where they are right now -- all without leaving your computer."

Users may experience missions in real-time, and "Eyes on the Solar System" also allows them to travel through time. The tool is populated with NASA data dating back to 1950 and projected to 2050.

The playback rate can be sped up or slowed down. When

NASA's Juno spacecraft launched on Aug. 5, 2011, users could look ahead to see the mission's five-year journey to Jupiter in a matter of seconds.

Point of view can be switched from faraway to close-up to right "on board" spacecraft. Location, motion and appearance are based on predicted and reconstructed mission data. Dozens of controls on a series of pop-up menus allow users to fully customize what they see, and video and audio tutorials explain how to use the tool's many options. Users may choose from 2-D or 3-D modes, with the latter simply requiring a pair of red-cyan glasses to see.

"By basing our visualization primarily on mission data, this tool will help both NASA and the public better understand complex space science missions," said Kevin Hussey, manager of Visualization Technology Applications and Development at JPL, whose team developed "Eyes on the Solar System."

"Eyes on the Solar System" is in beta release. It has been demonstrated at science conferences, in classrooms and at the 2011 South by Southwest Interactive Conference in Austin, Texas.

Designers are updating "Eyes on the Solar System" to include NASA science missions launching during the coming months, including GRAIL to the moon and the Mars Science Laboratory Curiosity rover.

Item Prompt:

What is the author's main purpose for writing this text? Analyze how the author uses language and other strategies to reinforce the main purpose? Support your response using specific details from the text.

	Scoring Rubric
4 Exemplary	<p>An <i>exemplary</i> response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gives substantial evidence of the ability to explain how an author presents information to reinforce a specific purpose • Includes specific explanations that make clear reference to the text • Fully supports the explanations with clearly relevant information from the text
3 Adequate	<p>An <i>adequate</i> response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gives sufficient evidence of the ability to explain how an author presents information to reinforce a specific purpose • Includes some specific explanations that make reference to the text • Adequately supports the explanations with relevant information from the text
2 Partial	<p>A <i>partial</i> response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gives some evidence of the ability to explain how an author presents information to reinforce a specific purpose • Includes general explanations that make few references to the text • Partially supports the explanations with few relevant information from the text
1 Minimal	<p>A <i>minimal</i> response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gives limited evidence of the ability to explain how an author presents information to reinforce a specific purpose • Includes explanations but they are not explicit or make only vague references to the text • Supports the explanations with at least one detail but the relevance of that detail to the text must be inferred
0 No credit	<p>A response gets no credit if it provides no evidence of the ability explain how an author presents information to reinforce a specific purpose, includes no relevant information from the text, or is vague.</p>

Scoring Notes:

Response may include but is not limited to: The primary purpose of this press release is to notify the public about the launch of a new technology interface and to encourage people to try it once it is released. The author uses evocative verbs such as “journey,” “explore,” and “cruise” to engage and interest readers. The author also includes a quote by Blaine Baggett that is based on a familiar and reassuring statement heard on commercial airplanes. In addressing the second part of his quote directly to the readers (“See what NASA’s spacecraft see...”), the speaker creates a feeling of immediacy and energy and appeals to their sense of adventure. The author uses specific word choice to describe functionality to clarify for the reader (e.g. “2-D” “3-D”)

Score Point 4 Sample:

The main purpose of the press release is for NASA to tell the public about the new

technology tool and to encourage people to use it. The author uses powerful words that make the reader feel eager about trying out the new interface. For example, he uses verbs such as “journey,” “cruise,” and “explore” to create a sense of adventure. He also puts in a quote that sounds similar to “You are now free to move about the cabin,” which is a statement that is often heard on airplanes. Once passengers hear it, they feel safe and reassured that everything is going well, and readers will also feel comfortable with the new technology. Finally, the quote by Blaine Baggett addresses the readers directly (“See what NASA’s spacecraft see”), which helps people feel more interested and engaged in what is being described in the press release. They might be more willing to try out the new technology.

Score Point 3 Sample:

The press release is meant to tell the public about NASA’s new technology tool and encourage them to try it out. In order to accomplish this goal, the author uses strong and descriptive words in the text to interest the readers (for example, “cruise,” “journey,” and “explore”). These words are action verbs that help the readers feel as if they’re on a space trip. The author also uses direct quotations from experts that show some interesting features of the tool and some of its benefits. Quotes from experts can convince readers that this is a worthy technology to try out.

Score Point 2 Sample:

The author of the press release is announcing to the public the release of a new technology tool and is trying to encourage people to try it out. The writer uses language and other strategies to achieve his goal. For example, he uses descriptive verbs when talking about how users can experience space travel. These action verbs help the readers become excited about going on a space adventure. Also, the author uses quotations from experts to convince readers to try out the technology tool.

Score Point 1 Sample:

The author’s point in writing the press release is to announce the launch of NASA’s new technology tool. He uses language and other strategies to encourage readers to try out the new tool. The language in the text is more casual than a scientific document and is written in such a way to interest its readers. For example, the author uses quotes from experts in the press release.

Score Point 0 Sample:

The author writes about NASA. It is an interesting text.

Worksheet: Text Complexity Analysis		
Title	Author	Text Description
NASA Internet Tool	NASA	Press release describing new tool available to the public



Recommended Placement for Assessment: Grade 9

The Lexile and F-K are fairly high, most likely due to the vocabulary demands. However the information is fairly straightforward and students should be able to navigate the parts of the passage that have less familiar information. There is nothing terribly abstract about the ideas. **Based on these sets of measures, this passage is recommended for assessment at grade 9.**

Qualitative Measures	Quantitative Measures
<p>Meaning/Purpose: <u>Moderately complex:</u> Straightforward press release/news article format.</p> <p>Text Structure: <u>Moderately complex:</u> The organization is fairly clear – an overview, then specific information, interspersed with a promotional-type information.</p> <p>Language Features: <u>Very complex:</u> The vocabulary is dense and highly technological. While exact understanding of all terms is not necessary, it does make for a more challenging read. There are many complex sentences with several subordinate phrases or clauses.</p> <p>Knowledge Demands: <u>Very complex:</u> A great deal of subject-specific information and some challenging technological concepts.</p>	<p>Common Core State Standards Appendix A Complexity Band Level (if applicable):</p> <p>Lexile or Other Quantitative Measure of the Text:</p> <p>Lexile: 1360L; above grade Flesch-Kincaid: 13.2 Word Count: 467</p> <p style="background-color: #4682B4; color: white; text-align: center;">Considerations for Passage Selection</p> <p>Passage selection should be based on the ELA Content Specifications targets and the cognitive demands of the assessment tasks.</p> <p>Potential Challenges a Text May Pose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility • Sentence and text structures • Archaic language, slang, idioms, or other language challenges • Background knowledge • Bias and sensitivity issues • Word count

Adapted from the 2012 ELA SCASS work