

# **Reading GOALS 2 Sample Items**

## NRS Educational Functioning Level

### **Level 1**

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#1	Vocabulary Photos	4	0.1	4	A



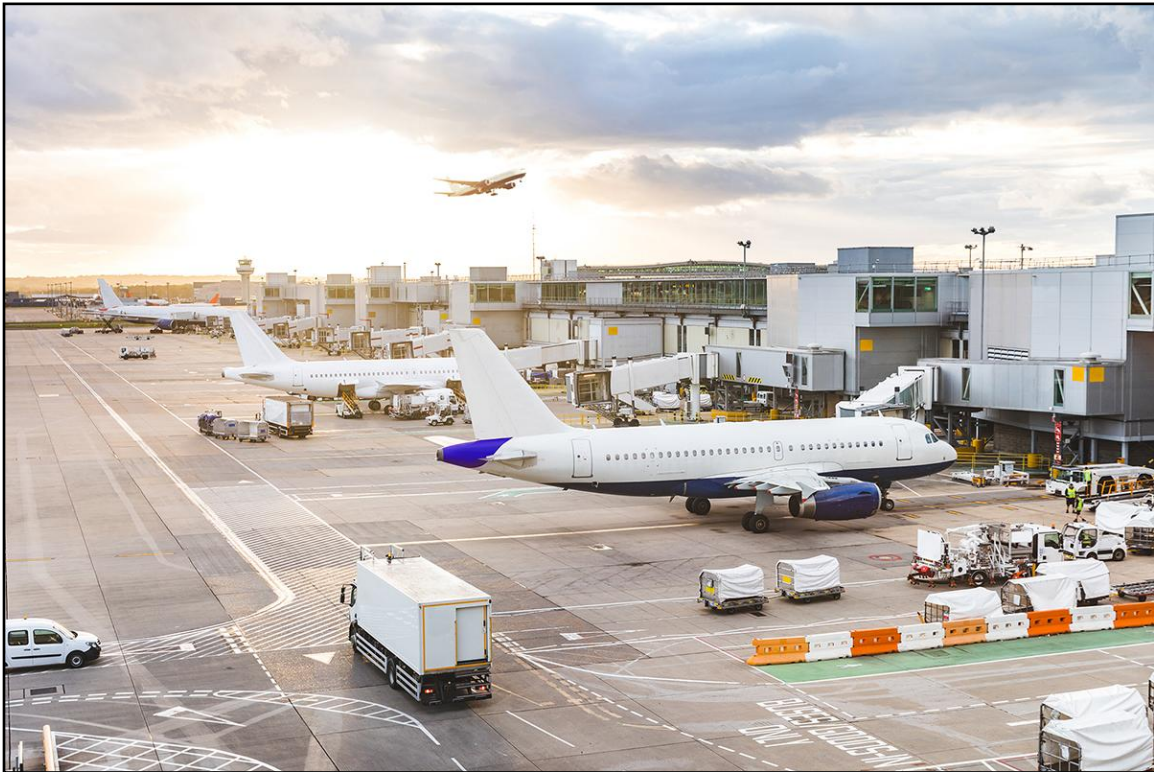
- A. school
- B. bank
- C. pharmacy
- D. library

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#2	Vocabulary Photos	4	0.1	4	D



- A. bottle
- B. mug
- C. can
- D. glass

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#3	Vocabulary Photos	4	0.1	4	A



- A. This is an airport.
- B. This is a mall.
- C. This is a supermarket.
- D. This is a museum.

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#4	<b>Details</b> Retell key details	1	2.6	4	B



What time does the picnic start?

- A. 9:00 a.m.
- B. 11:00 a.m.
- C. 4:00 p.m.
- D. 5:00 p.m.

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#5	<b>Details</b> Retell key details	1	2.6	4	D



When are the concerts?

- A. every day
- B. during May
- C. Friday mornings
- D. at night



Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#6	<b>Details</b> Retell key details	1	2.6	4	A



How much are the concerts?

- A. free
- B. \$6.00
- C. \$8.00
- D. \$10.00



Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#7	<b>Details</b> Retell key details	1	1.1	3	D



## Fruit Salad

### Fruit:

strawberries

blueberries

grapes

pineapple

1. Wash the berries and grapes.
2. Cut the pineapple into small pieces. You do not need to cut the berries or the grapes.
3. Mix everything together in a bowl.

Keep in the refrigerator.

The first thing to do is \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. mix the fruit
- B. cut the fruit
- C. serve the fruit
- D. clean the fruit

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#8	<b>Details</b> Retell key details	1	1.1	3	D



## Fruit Salad

### Fruit:

strawberries

blueberries

grapes

pineapple

1. Wash the berries and grapes.
2. Cut the pineapple into small pieces. You do not need to cut the berries or the grapes.
3. Mix everything together in a bowl.

Keep in the refrigerator.

This says to cut the \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. strawberries
- B. blueberries
- C. grapes
- D. pineapple

## NRS Educational Functioning Level

### **Level 2**

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#9	<b>Details</b> Retell key details	1	1.2	4	C

**Ben's Donuts** 

A change is coming! Starting January 2,  
we will have hot coffee for customers.

Your first cup of coffee is free  
when you buy a donut.



Monday - Friday: 5:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Saturday and Sunday: 6:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

What is free when you buy a donut on January 2?

- A. a second donut
- B. a glass of juice
- C. a cup of coffee
- D. a box of snacks

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#10	<b>Main Idea</b> Identify the main topic	2	4.4	4	B



## Staff Lunchroom Notice

---

### Refrigerator Rules:

- Clean up any mess or spills right away. No one likes a refrigerator that is dirty.
- Don't leave your food in the refrigerator all weekend. Take it home on Friday!
- Don't change the refrigerator temperature.

Remember, be part of the team and follow these rules!

What is this sign about?

- A. changes to the lunchroom
- B. rules about the refrigerator
- C. food people can bring to work
- D. problems with the refrigerator

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#11	<b>Details</b> Retell key details	1	4.4	4	A



## Staff Lunchroom Notice

---

**Refrigerator Rules:**

- Clean up any mess or spills right away. No one likes a refrigerator that is dirty.
- Don't leave your food in the refrigerator all weekend. Take it home on Friday!
- Don't change the refrigerator temperature.

Remember, be part of the team and follow these rules!

What is this sign about?

- A. changes to the lunchroom
- B. rules about the refrigerator
- C. food people can bring to work
- D. problems with the refrigerator

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#12	<b>Details</b> Understand text features	5	4.9	4	A

### The Website for Making Your Business Better

Learn more below! Read different articles about business.

**Build Your Brand**  
How to advertise what you make and get people to buy it [See all 15 articles >>](#)

**Better Business**  
Ways to grow your business [See all 42 articles >>](#)

**Customer Service**  
How to talk to your customers and help them [See all 33 articles >>](#)

**Taking Care**  
The best ways to hire people and keep them happy [See all 21 articles >>](#)

Where is information on advertising?

- A. Build Your Brand
- B. Better Business
- C. Customer Service
- D. Taking Care



Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#13	<b>Details</b> Retell key details	1	4.9	4	C

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**Build Your Brand**  
How to advertise what you make and get people to buy it  
[See all 15 articles >>](#)

**Better Business**  
Ways to grow your business  
[See all 42 articles >>](#)

**Customer Service**  
How to talk to your customers and help them  
[See all 33 articles >>](#)

**Taking Care**  
The best ways to hire people and keep them happy  
[See all 21 articles >>](#)

How many Customer Service articles are there?

- A. 15
- B. 21
- C. 33
- D. 42

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#14	<b>Vocabulary</b> Understand academic words	4	4.9	4	B

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**Build Your Brand**  
How to advertise what you make and get people to buy it  
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**Better Business**  
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**Customer Service**  
How to talk to your customers and help them  
[See all 33 articles >>](#)

**Taking Care**  
The best ways to hire people and keep them happy  
[See all 21 articles >>](#)

The word grow means \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. come together
- B. get bigger
- C. start over
- D. stay the same

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#15	<b>Main Idea</b> Identify an author's purpose	6	2.6	4	C

## Garnet Hill Library

### Friday Night Movies



Enjoy movies at the library every Friday night at 7:30!

Sign up to make sure you get a seat! You can sign up online or at the library's front desk. The event is free, but a library card is required.

The first Friday of each month is a children's movie. Bring the kids!

[www.garnethillcountylibrary.gov](http://www.garnethillcountylibrary.gov)

Why did the library send this information?

- A. to ask about a problem at the library
- B. to tell about a change coming to the library
- C. to invite people to a library event
- D. to teach people how to find things at the library

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#16	<b>Details</b> Retell key details	1	2.6	4	B

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The first Friday of each month is a children's movie. Bring the kids!

[www.garnethillcountylibrary.gov](http://www.garnethillcountylibrary.gov)

What are people signing up for?

- A. a library card
- B. a seat for a movie
- C. a free library book
- D. a movie to borrow

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#17	<b>Vocabulary</b> Understand academic words	4	2.6	4	C

## Garnet Hill Library

### Friday Night Movies



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The first Friday of each month is a children's movie. Bring the kids!

[www.garnethillcountylibrary.gov](http://www.garnethillcountylibrary.gov)

What does required mean?

- A. free
- B. easy
- C. needed
- D. suggested

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#18	<b>Details</b> Retell key details	1	2.6	4	B

 **Sunshine Summer Camp for Kids**

[Home](#) [Schedule](#) [Sign Up](#)

Each day at Sunshine Summer Camp your child will have fun with crafts, music, and games. Sign up today!

**Who:** Our camps are for kids 6 to 10 years old.

**When:** The camps are all summer from June 6 to August 15. Each camp is one week – Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Where:** Sunshine Center, 927 Old Oak Road

The web page gives \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. the cost of the camp
- B. the location of the camp
- C. sign-up information for the camp
- D. a list of things needed for the camp

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#19	<b>Details</b> Retell key details	1	2.6	4	C

 **Sunshine Summer Camp for Kids**

[Home](#) [Schedule](#) [Sign Up](#)

Each day at Sunshine Summer Camp your child will have fun with crafts, music, and games. Sign up today!

**Who:** Our camps are for kids 6 to 10 years old.

**When:** The camps are all summer from June 6 to August 15. Each camp is one week – Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

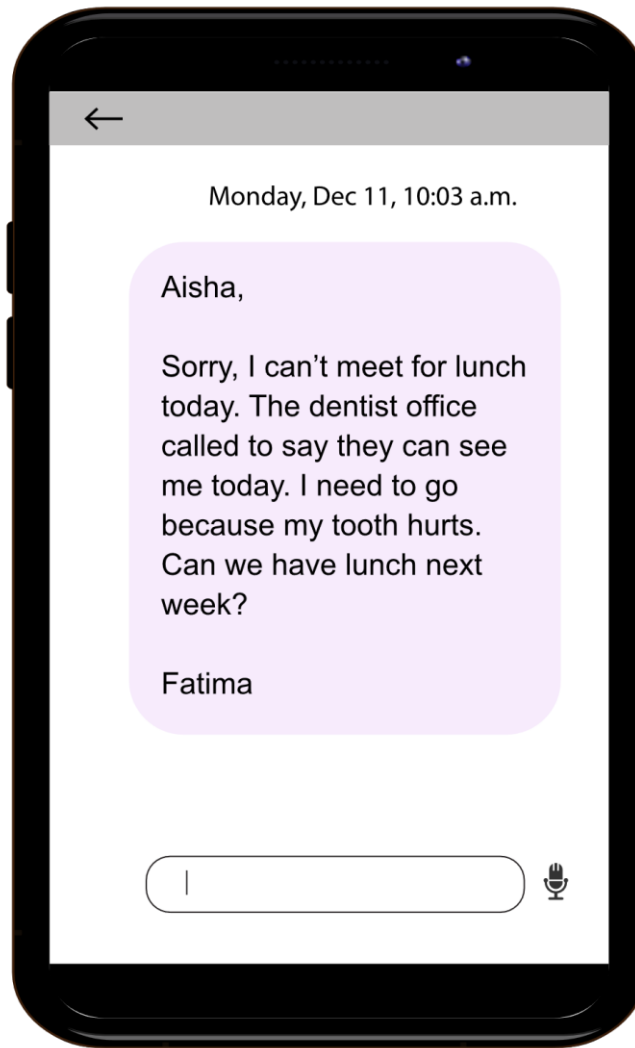
**Where:** Sunshine Center, 927 Old Oak Road

How long is each camp?

- A. two months
- B. until June 6
- C. one week
- D. all summer



Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#20	<b>Main Idea</b> Identify the main topic	2	0.1	3	C



What is this text about?

- A. calling the dentist office
- B. deciding where to have lunch
- C. changing when to have lunch
- D. making a dentist appointment

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#21	<b>Main Idea</b> Identify the main topic	2	4.4	3	D

David started a new job on Monday. He woke up sick on Thursday. He didn't want to get the other workers sick. He decided to call his boss. She thanked him for calling. She said she hoped he would feel better soon.

What is this about?

- A. David's new boss was sick.
- B. David was afraid of getting sick.
- C. David made the other workers sick.
- D. David got sick on his first work week.

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#22	<b>Details</b> Retell key details	2	4.4	3	A

David started a new job on Monday. He woke up sick on Thursday. He didn't want to get the other workers sick. He decided to call his boss. She thanked him for calling. She said she hoped he would feel better soon.

What did David do?

- A. called his boss
- B. went to work sick
- C. quit his new job
- D. asked for a different job

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#23	<b>Details</b> Retell key details	1	4.1	3	C

The screenshot shows an email client window. The header bar is blue with standard window controls on the left and icons for reply, reply all, forward, and print on the right. Below the header, there is a toolbar with icons for search, view, and navigation. The email header fields are as follows:

Sent:	Monday, 5/12
From:	Amina Sahadi
To:	Mariela Sanchez
Subject:	Cook's helper

The body of the email contains the following text:

Dear Mariela,

Yes, I have your application and the job is still open. We start interviews on Wednesday. Can you come at 3:00 PM or 4:00 PM?

Amina Sahadi, Office Manager

Jay's Restaurant

Amina Sahadi wrote the email \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. on Wednesday
- B. at 3:00 PM
- C. to Mariela Sanchez
- D. to Jay's Restaurant

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#24	<b>Details</b> Retell key details	1	1.4	4	A



### Homes for Sale in Mountain High Community

Do you want to live in a community for people 55 years old or over? Then look no further! These homes are 1,200 square feet and have 2 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. There is also a swimming pool for all residents. Just a short 10-minute drive to town.

Come see the view from Mountain High Community!

Call 818-555-2134 or do a virtual tour at  
[www.MountainHighHomes.com](http://www.MountainHighHomes.com)

This ad is for people who \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. are 55 years old or over
- B. want to live far from town
- C. want to live in an apartment
- D. need a home with 3 bedrooms

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#25	<b>Details</b> Retell key details	1	1.4	4	D



### Homes for Sale in Mountain High Community

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What information is in the ad?

- A. the address of the homes for sale
- B. the cost to use the swimming pool
- C. the size of Mountain High Community
- D. the number of bedrooms and bathrooms

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#26	<b>Vocabulary</b> Understand academic words	4	1.4	4	C



### Homes for Sale in Mountain High Community

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[www.MountainHighHomes.com](http://www.MountainHighHomes.com)

The word further means \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. closer
- B. faster
- C. more
- D. early



## NRS Educational Functioning Level

### **Level 3**

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#27	<b>Main Idea</b> Identify the main topic	2	1.4	3	B

## Attention Tenants

Bellwood Apartments 

With the recent cold weather, I want to make sure the heaters are working.

I will be coming on Saturday with someone from a heater repair company to check your apartment heater. Any problems you're having with the heating will get fixed.

If you want us to visit your apartment on a different day, please call me as soon as possible.

Marilyn Whitley,  
Building Manager  
503-555-2900

What does Marilyn Whitley want to do?

- A. put in a new heating system in the apartments
- B. see if the heaters in the apartments are working
- C. make an appointment to repair a broken heater
- D. check to see if the repair for a heater was done

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#28	<b>Details</b> Retell key details	1	1.4	3	A

## Attention Tenants

Bellwood Apartments 

With the recent cold weather, I want to make sure the heaters are working.

I will be coming on Saturday with someone from a heater repair company to check your apartment heater. Any problems you're having with the heating will get fixed.


If you want us to visit your apartment on a different day, please call me as soon as possible.

Marilyn Whitley,  
Building Manager  
503-555-2900

What should tenants do if Saturday does not work for them?

- A. call Marilyn Whitley
- B. check the heater themselves
- C. contact the heater repair company
- D. write a note to the building manager

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#29	<b>Main Idea</b> Identify the main topic	2	1.4	4	A



## Your Perfect Home Company

[Home](#)
[View Rentals](#)
[Apply Now](#)
[Important Documents](#)
[Work with Us](#)

**Step 1:** Click “View Rentals” to search for a house or apartment.

**Step 2:** Once you find a rental that you like, click “Apply Now” to begin. You will need a credit card to pay the fee of \$50.

**Step 3:** Attach all of the listed application requirements. You will need:

- 1) completed application form
- 2) proof of income form
- 3) copy of driver’s license and Social Security card
- 4) proof of rental history form


The application process is faster if you have these items ready ahead of time.

**Step 4:** Double check that you have included all the information. Your application may be delayed if it is incomplete.

What is this web page for?

- finding and applying for a rental home
- learning how to choose the best rental home
- looking up information about renting out your home
- getting tips on how to apply for a job at a rental company

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#30	<b>Details</b> Retell key details	1	1.4	4	C



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- 4) proof of rental history form


The application process is faster if you have these items ready ahead of time.

**Step 4:** Double check that you have included all the information. Your application may be delayed if it is incomplete.

Which step is faster for people who already have the required application documents?

- A. Step 1
- B. Step 2
- C. Step 3
- D. Step 4

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#31	<b>Vocabulary</b> Understand academic words	4	1.4	4	B



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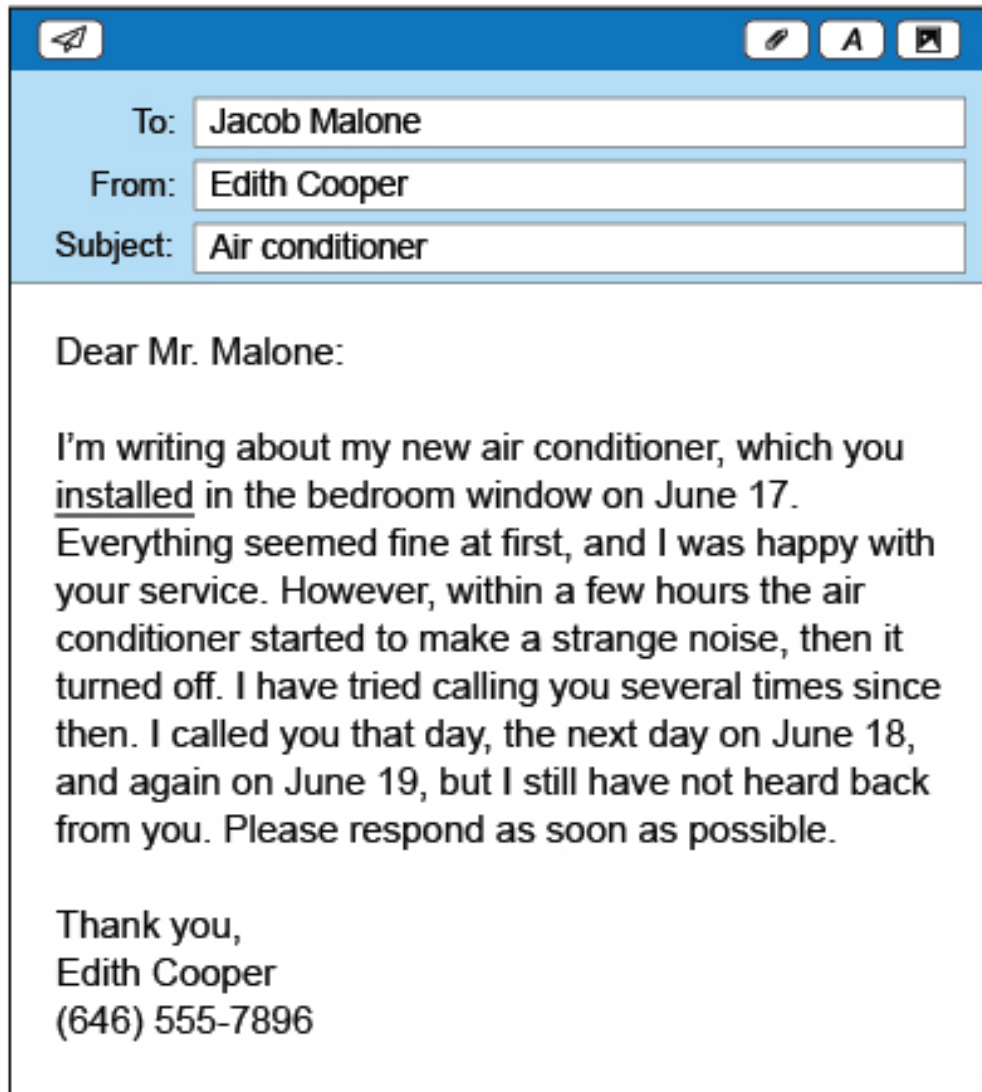
The application process is faster if you have these items ready ahead of time.

**Step 4:** Double check that you have included all the information. Your application may be delayed if it is incomplete.

What does delayed mean?

- A. checked out
- B. slowed down
- C. turned in
- D. looked up

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#32	<b>Main Idea</b> Identify an author's purpose	6	1.6	3	A



The screenshot shows an email client window. The header bar is blue with icons for a paper plane, a pencil, a bold 'A', and a square. The email header fields are as follows:

- To: Jacob Malone
- From: Edith Cooper
- Subject: Air conditioner

The body of the email contains the following text:

Dear Mr. Malone:

I'm writing about my new air conditioner, which you installed in the bedroom window on June 17. Everything seemed fine at first, and I was happy with your service. However, within a few hours the air conditioner started to make a strange noise, then it turned off. I have tried calling you several times since then. I called you that day, the next day on June 18, and again on June 19, but I still have not heard back from you. Please respond as soon as possible.

Thank you,  
Edith Cooper  
(646) 555-7896

Why did Edith send this email?

- A. to try to contact Mr. Malone again about her problem
- B. to schedule a different day to get a new air conditioner
- C. to ask about the cost of a new air conditioner
- D. to thank Mr. Malone again for his good service



Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#33	<b>Inference</b> Infer/Draw conclusions	1	1.6	3	B

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Thank you,  
Edith Cooper  
(646) 555-7896

How does Edith *most likely* feel?

- A. embarrassed
- B. frustrated
- C. jealous
- D. nervous

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#34	<b>Vocabulary</b> Understand academic words	4	1.6	3	D

The screenshot shows an email client window. The header bar is blue with icons for a paper plane, a pencil, a bold 'A', and a square icon. The email header fields are as follows:

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Thank you,  
Edith Cooper  
(646) 555-7896

What does installed mean?

- A. cleaned up
- B. arranged for
- C. looked into
- D. put in

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#35	<b>Main Idea</b> Identify the main topic	2	3.1	3	D



Starting May 1, you will automatically receive a text message reminding you of your upcoming appointment. It will ask you to text back "Yes" to confirm or "No" to cancel. Your prompt reply will help us with scheduling. Please make sure your phone number on file is up to date. You can stop this service at any time by replying "Stop" to our text message.

As always, we ask that you let us know if you cannot make it to your scheduled appointment at least 24 hours in advance. If you do not cancel within that time, we will charge a fee unless it was for a valid reason, such as illness or an emergency.

1-800-555-2902

[www.waveryclinic.com/scheduling](http://www.waveryclinic.com/scheduling)

What is this notice about?

- A. a new fee increase for cancelled appointments
- B. a new system to schedule appointments
- C. a new deadline for cancelling appointments
- D. a new appointment reminder system

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#36	<b>Details</b> Retell key details	1	3.1	3	A



Starting May 1, you will automatically receive a text message reminding you of your upcoming appointment. It will ask you to text back "Yes" to confirm or "No" to cancel. Your prompt reply will help us with scheduling. Please make sure your phone number on file is up to date. You can stop this service at any time by replying "Stop" to our text message.

As always, we ask that you let us know if you cannot make it to your scheduled appointment at least 24 hours in advance. If you do not cancel within that time, we will charge a fee unless it was for a valid reason, such as illness or an emergency.

1-800-555-2902

[www.waveryclinic.com/scheduling](http://www.waveryclinic.com/scheduling)

What should patients do if they do not want to receive texts from the clinic?

- A. reply to the appointment reminder text
- B. tell the clinic when checking in
- C. call the scheduling department
- D. go online to change contact information

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#37	<b>Vocabulary</b> Understand academic words	4	3.1	3	B



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1-800-555-2902

[www.waveryclinic.com/scheduling](http://www.waveryclinic.com/scheduling)

What does in advance mean?

- A. by
- B. before
- C. quickly
- D. soon

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#38	<b>Main Idea</b> Identify an author's purpose	6	1.9	3	A

## Consumer Care Magazine

### What You Need to Know About Car Insurance

Trying to find the right car insurance can be a challenge. Each insurance company, and there are many, uses a different formula to determine how much to charge customers. It's your job to make sure that you do not overpay. So how can you find the best deal?

First, don't assume that more expensive coverage is better coverage. You will see that companies have similar plans for sometimes very different prices. It's also important to ask about special discounts for a safe driving record and if you can get a discount for any safety features on your car. There may be even more discounts offered that can bring your insurance rates down more.

This article was written to explain \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. how to get a good price on car insurance
- B. where to search for insurance companies
- C. which insurance companies offer the best rates
- D. how to know which insurance company to trust



Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#39	<b>Inference</b> Infer/Draw conclusions	1	1.9	3	C

## Consumer Care Magazine

### What You Need to Know About Car Insurance

Trying to find the right car insurance can be a challenge. Each insurance company, and there are many, uses a different formula to determine how much to charge customers. It's your job to make sure that you do not overpay. So how can you find the best deal?

First, don't assume that more expensive coverage is better coverage. You will see that companies have similar plans for sometimes very different prices. It's also important to ask about special discounts for a safe driving record and if you can get a discount for any safety features on your car. There may be even more discounts offered that can bring your insurance rates down more.

What would the writer *most likely* agree with?

- A. It is too difficult to find information about each company's coverage.
- B. Most companies give discounts without people asking for them.
- C. Many people think the best insurance is the most expensive.
- D. Customers do not have enough companies to choose from.

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#40	<b>Details</b> Understand text structure	5	1.9	3	B

## Consumer Care Magazine

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How is the article organized?

- A. cause and effect
- B. problem and solution
- C. compare and contrast
- D. definition and description



Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#41	<b>Vocabulary</b> Understand academic words	4	1.9	3	B

## Consumer Care Magazine

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What does assume mean?

- A. approve
- B. believe
- C. pretend
- D. research

## NRS Educational Functioning Level


### **Level 4**

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#42	<b>Details</b> Compare details between texts	9	2.6	3	A

### Brent City Hotel Reviews


[Home](#)
[About](#)
[Hotel Search](#)

6/18



Good Rest Hotel was perfect for my family's vacation. It was close to everything we wanted to visit. The front desk staff were very helpful. We needed more towels, and they sent them to our room right away. My family loved the pool! We all enjoyed eating in the restaurant. When we come back, I want to try the gym.  
- Enrique I.

6/20



Good Rest Hotel is in a fantastic location and has a great swimming pool, but that's about it. I didn't even try to go to the gym or restaurant because they were too crowded. The front desk staff helped me change rooms at no charge because the first room was too small. At least the hotel bus to the airport was on time.  
- Simone B.

What did Enrique and Simone *both* like about the hotel?


- A. the location
- B. the towels
- C. the gym
- D. the restaurant

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#43	<b>Details</b> Compare details between texts	9	2.6	3	D

### Brent City Hotel Reviews

[Home](#)
[About](#)
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6/18



Good Rest Hotel was perfect for my family's vacation. It was close to everything we wanted to visit. The front desk staff were very helpful. We needed more towels, and they sent them to our room right away. My family loved the pool! We all enjoyed eating in the restaurant. When we come back, I want to try the gym.

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- Simone B.

Both Enrique and Simone agree that \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. the pool was too crowded
- B. the rooms were a good size
- C. the hotel was too expensive
- D. the front desk staff were helpful

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#44	<b>Main Idea</b> Identify the main topic	2	2.5	4	C

### Graham Hill Neighborhood Association Notice

Our regularly scheduled meeting on the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. is on a holiday this month. We are going to hold the meeting this month on Tuesday at 7 p.m. instead at the Community Center.

#### Discussion Topics:

- Community Clean-up
- Community Garden
- Community Social Events
- Traffic and Safety Alerts



Our goal is to support our neighborhood in a variety of ways. With your help, we can make Graham Hill a cleaner, safer, and friendlier neighborhood. Remember, membership is voluntary and is open to anyone living in the neighborhood. Please join us!

What is this notice about?

- A. current problems in the neighborhood
- B. the neighborhood association's goals
- C. a change to the usual meeting time
- D. ways to join the neighborhood association

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#45	<b>Details</b> Retell key details	1	2.5	4	B

### Graham Hill Neighborhood Association Notice

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- Traffic and Safety Alerts



Our goal is to support our neighborhood in a variety of ways. With your help, we can make Graham Hill a cleaner, safer, and friendlier neighborhood. Remember, membership is voluntary and is open to anyone living in the neighborhood. Please join us!

The neighborhood association meets \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. every Monday
- B. once a month
- C. when there are new members
- D. when there is a neighborhood problem

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#46	<b>Inference</b> Infer/Draw conclusions	1	2.5	4	D

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#### Discussion Topics:

- Community Clean-up
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Our goal is to support our neighborhood in a variety of ways. With your help, we can make Graham Hill a cleaner, safer, and friendlier neighborhood. Remember, membership is voluntary and is open to anyone living in the neighborhood. Please join us!

What problem would the neighborhood association *most likely* discuss?

- A. house prices
- B. jobs for neighbors
- C. making friends
- D. trash on playgrounds

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#47	<b>Vocabulary</b> Understand academic words	4	2.5	4	B

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#### Discussion Topics:

- Community Clean-up
- Community Garden
- Community Social Events
- Traffic and Safety Alerts



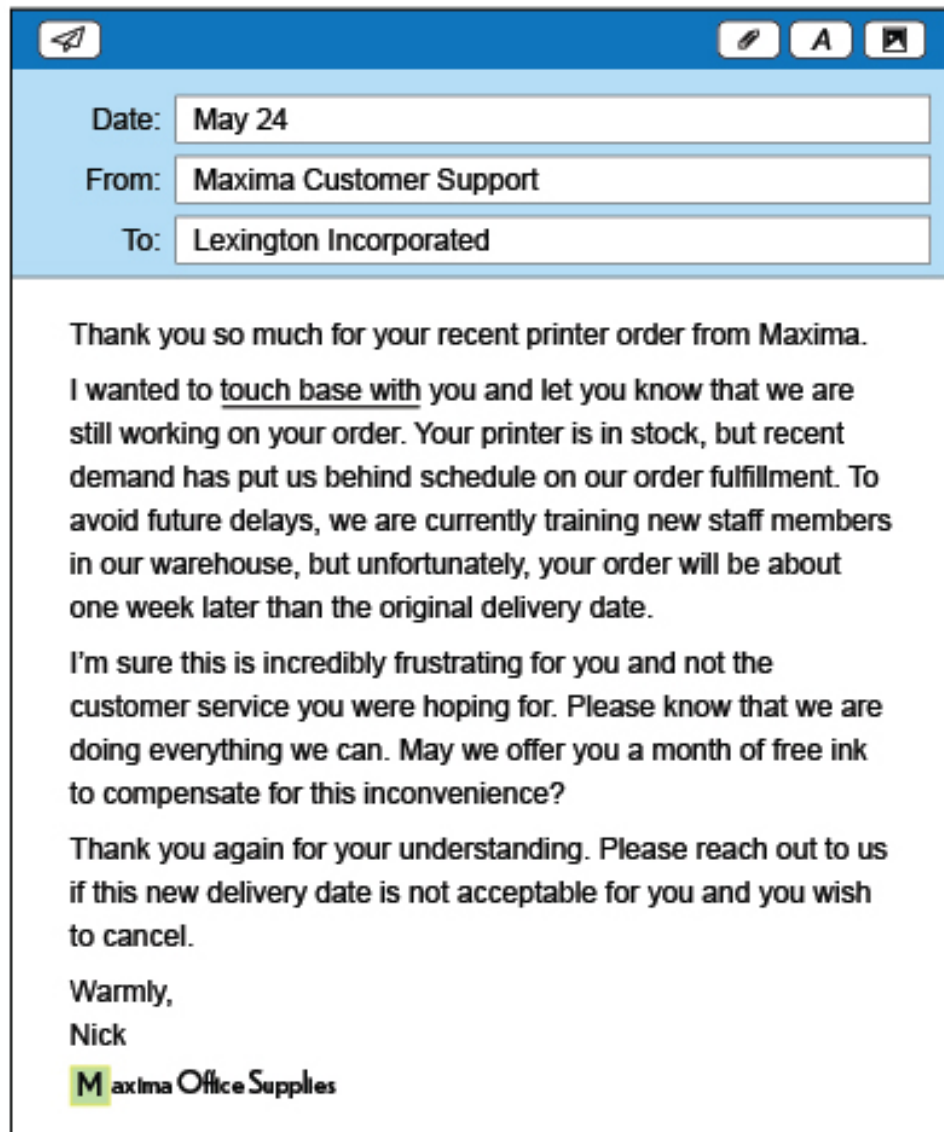
Our goal is to support our neighborhood in a variety of ways. With your help, we can make Graham Hill a cleaner, safer, and friendlier neighborhood. Remember, membership is voluntary and is open to anyone living in the neighborhood. Please join us!

What does support mean?

- A. change
- B. help
- C. keep
- D. provide



Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#48	<b>Main Idea</b> Identify an author's purpose	6	4.8	3	C



**Date:** May 24

**From:** Maxima Customer Support


**To:** Lexington Incorporated

Thank you so much for your recent printer order from Maxima. I wanted to touch base with you and let you know that we are still working on your order. Your printer is in stock, but recent demand has put us behind schedule on our order fulfillment. To avoid future delays, we are currently training new staff members in our warehouse, but unfortunately, your order will be about one week later than the original delivery date.

I'm sure this is incredibly frustrating for you and not the customer service you were hoping for. Please know that we are doing everything we can. May we offer you a month of free ink to compensate for this inconvenience?

Thank you again for your understanding. Please reach out to us if this new delivery date is not acceptable for you and you wish to cancel.

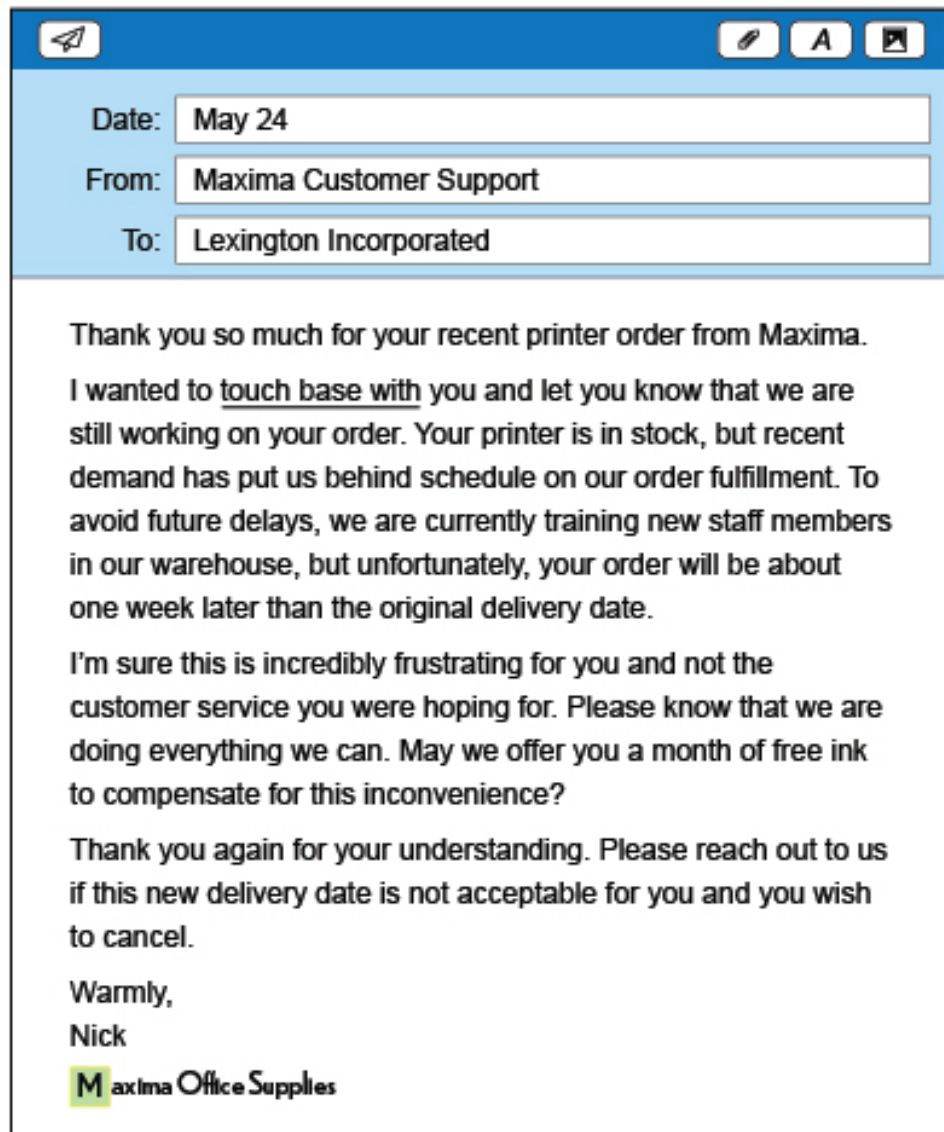
Warmly,  
Nick

 Maxima Office Supplies

The purpose of this email is to \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. explain that a product will no longer be stocked
- B. apologize for sending Lexington the wrong product
- C. state that a delivery will take longer than expected
- D. inform Lexington that their order has been canceled

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#49	<b>Inference</b> Infer/Draw conclusions	1	4.8	3	A



Date: May 24

From: Maxima Customer Support


To: Lexington Incorporated

Thank you so much for your recent printer order from Maxima. I wanted to touch base with you and let you know that we are still working on your order. Your printer is in stock, but recent demand has put us behind schedule on our order fulfillment. To avoid future delays, we are currently training new staff members in our warehouse, but unfortunately, your order will be about one week later than the original delivery date.

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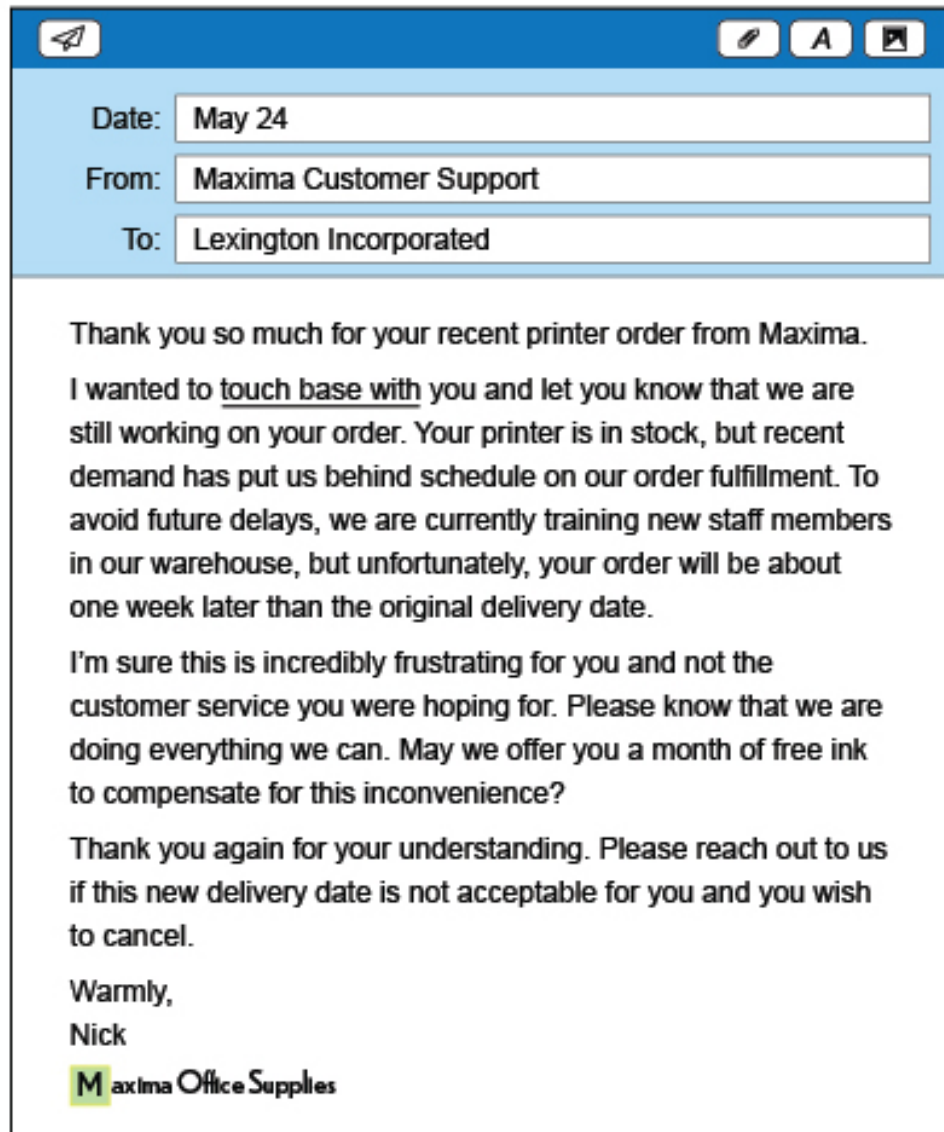
Warmly,  
Nick

 Maxima Office Supplies

What does Nick suggest about Maxima Office Supplies?

- A. They have received a lot more business lately.
- B. They are no longer fulfilling orders on printers.
- C. They may start to offer a new product line.
- D. They will soon need to increase their prices.

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#50	<b>Vocabulary</b> Understand academic words	4	4.8	3	B



Date: May 24

From: Maxima Customer Support


To: Lexington Incorporated

Thank you so much for your recent printer order from Maxima. I wanted to touch base with you and let you know that we are still working on your order. Your printer is in stock, but recent demand has put us behind schedule on our order fulfillment. To avoid future delays, we are currently training new staff members in our warehouse, but unfortunately, your order will be about one week later than the original delivery date.

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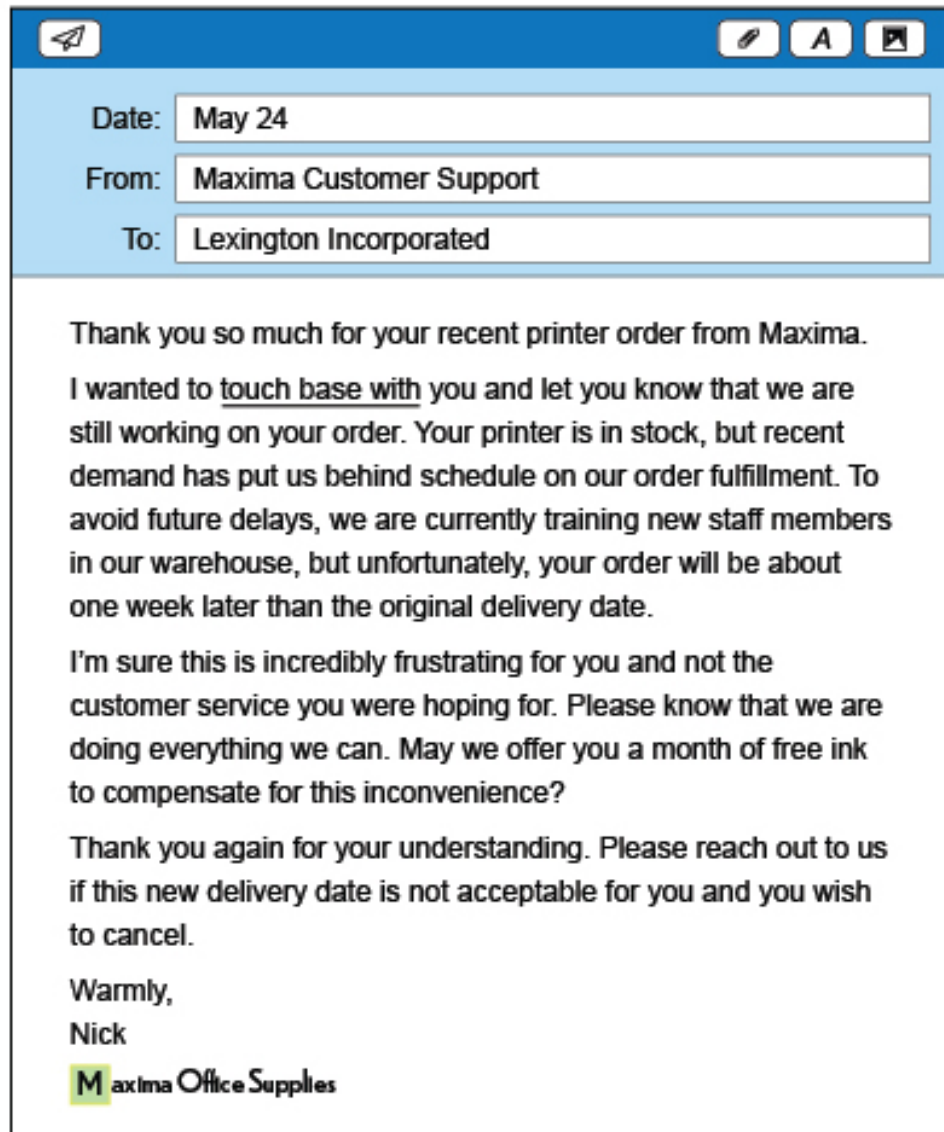
Warmly,  
Nick

 axima Office Supplies

The tone of Nick's email is \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. disapproving
- B. apologetic
- C. impressed
- D. annoyed

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#51	<b>Vocabulary</b> Understand figurative language	4	4.8	3	B



Date: May 24

From: Maxima Customer Support


To: Lexington Incorporated

Thank you so much for your recent printer order from Maxima. I wanted to touch base with you and let you know that we are still working on your order. Your printer is in stock, but recent demand has put us behind schedule on our order fulfillment. To avoid future delays, we are currently training new staff members in our warehouse, but unfortunately, your order will be about one week later than the original delivery date.

I'm sure this is incredibly frustrating for you and not the customer service you were hoping for. Please know that we are doing everything we can. May we offer you a month of free ink to compensate for this inconvenience?

Thank you again for your understanding. Please reach out to us if this new delivery date is not acceptable for you and you wish to cancel.

Warmly,  
Nick

 Maxima Office Supplies

What does touch base with mean?

- A. persuade
- B. contact
- C. invite
- D. advise

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#52	Main Idea Summarize	2	2.7	3	A



## Salem News

### Dear Anna

An advice column where Anna answers questions about everyday life issues.

Dear Anna,

Help! My next-door neighbor, "Monique," regularly stops by unannounced to chat. When I tell her I am busy, she says "I won't stay long." I don't want to hurt her feelings, but I work full time, so I greatly value my free time.

Anna, what should I do?

- Prisha

---

Dear Prisha,

You have no choice but to be honest with Monique. You need to tell her you are too busy for unscheduled visits. If you want to continue the friendship, suggest a date in the future that would work for you. If she gets upset, you may just have to accept that she is a rude person.

- Anna

What is the *best* summary of Anna's response?

- A. Prisha needs to tell her neighbor how she feels and accept the outcome.
- B. Prisha needs to manage her time after work better and visit her neighbor more.
- C. Prisha needs to make time for friendships since she doesn't know many people.
- D. Prisha needs to think about how she makes people feel and let her neighbor visit.

Item	Content Area	ELP Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#53	<b>Point of View and Supporting Evidence</b> Identify an author's point of view	6	2.7	3	C



## Salem News

### Dear Anna

An advice column where Anna answers questions about everyday life issues.

Dear Anna,  
Help! My next-door neighbor, "Monique," regularly stops by unannounced to chat. When I tell her I am busy, she says "I won't stay long." I don't want to hurt her feelings, but I work full time, so I greatly value my free time. Anna, what should I do?  
- Prisha

---

Dear Prisha,  
You have no choice but to be honest with Monique. You need to tell her you are too busy for unscheduled visits. If you want to continue the friendship, suggest a date in the future that would work for you. If she gets upset, you may just have to accept that she is a rude person.  
- Anna

What does Anna think about Prisha's neighbor, Monique?

- A. Monique is not honest.
- B. Monique is very private.
- C. Monique is not polite.
- D. Monique is angry.



Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#54	Main Idea Summarize	2	2.5	3	B



The Waverly Foundation  
Spring Newsletter

### The Helping Hand Partnership Building Relationships and Finding Solutions

Last spring, the Waverly Foundation began working on ideas to support Waverly residents 65 and older who need assistance with home maintenance and other tasks.

"We wanted to build on the idea of community partnerships," said Sam Faez, Director of the Waverly Foundation. "When Elise Evans contacted me from the Burton University School of Social Work, I was thrilled." Ms. Evans and Mr. Faez created the Helping Hand Partnership. "We wanted to consult with both the residents and the students every step of the way. We formed a planning group made up of twelve Waverly residents 65 and older, and ten university students. We were instantly amazed at the work being done," said Faez.

Evans added, "We really just got out of the way. The student-resident planning group began building relationships and putting programming ideas together that first day." This multigenerational partnership resulted in two new programs: Home Safety Inspection and Home Maintenance, both free to all Waverly residents 65 and older.

What is the *best* summary of this article?

- A. The Waverly Foundation needed volunteers for their housing programs and the residents were able to help.
- B. The Waverly Foundation partnered with the university to develop new housing programs for older residents.
- C. The Helping Hand Partnership has had more success than most people thought it would have.
- D. The Helping Hand Partnership connects university students with residents to build housing together.

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#55	<b>Inference</b> Infer/Draw conclusions	1	2.5	3	C



The Waverly Foundation  
Spring Newsletter

### The Helping Hand Partnership Building Relationships and Finding Solutions

Last spring, the Waverly Foundation began working on ideas to support Waverly residents 65 and older who need assistance with home maintenance and other tasks.

"We wanted to build on the idea of community partnerships," said Sam Faez, Director of the Waverly Foundation. "When Elise Evans contacted me from the Burton University School of Social Work, I was thrilled." Ms. Evans and Mr. Faez created the Helping Hand Partnership. "We wanted to consult with both the residents and the students every step of the way. We formed a planning group made up of twelve Waverly residents 65 and older, and ten university students. We were instantly amazed at the work being done," said Faez.

Evans added, "We really just got out of the way. The student-resident planning group began building relationships and putting programming ideas together that first day." This multigenerational partnership resulted in two new programs: Home Safety Inspection and Home Maintenance, both free to all Waverly residents 65 and older.

Which statement would Elise Evans *most likely* agree with?

- A. The Waverly Foundation should include the public more.
- B. The students were more helpful than the Waverly residents.
- C. The planning group needed little supervision to get the work done.
- D. The Waverly Foundation does not do enough for the community.

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#56	<b>Vocabulary</b> Understand academic words	4	2.5	3	A



The Waverly Foundation  
Spring Newsletter

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"We wanted to build on the idea of community partnerships," said Sam Faez, Director of the Waverly Foundation. "When Elise Evans contacted me from the Burton University School of Social Work, I was thrilled." Ms. Evans and Mr. Faez created the Helping Hand Partnership. "We wanted to consult with both the residents and the students every step of the way. We formed a planning group made up of twelve Waverly residents 65 and older, and ten university students. We were instantly amazed at the work being done," said Faez.

Evans added, "We really just got out of the way. The student-resident planning group began building relationships and putting programming ideas together that first day." This multigenerational partnership resulted in two new programs: Home Safety Inspection and Home Maintenance, both free to all Waverly residents 65 and older.

Which word *best* matches the meaning of consult?

- A. discuss
- B. examine
- C. question
- D. reflect

## NRS Educational Functioning Level

### **Level 5**

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#57	<b>Point of View and Evidence</b> Identify supporting evidence	8	5.7	3	B



Travel Times

### Preserving More Than Memories

By Lori Hughes

It can be great fun to come across a beautiful shell on the beach. Most people don't think twice about taking a souvenir while enjoying a sandy coastline stroll. Unfortunately, this habit can adversely affect the very places people are trying to preserve in their memories. This is because seashells play an important part in coastal ecosystems.

Seashells are not just pretty castaways waiting to be discovered. They are used as homes for organisms, nests for birds, and places for small fish to take refuge from predators. Their removal can play a role in beach erosion as well. Shell surfaces give a place for algae to grow, and they help to anchor sea grass.

The writer claims that seashells are important to coastal ecosystems. What evidence does the writer provide to support this claim?

- A. She compares coastal ecosystems to other natural environments.
- B. She presents examples of the important roles shells have.
- C. She gives specific examples of beaches that have no more seashells.
- D. She writes about the impact of tourism on beach plants and wildlife.



Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#58	<b>Vocabulary</b> Understand academic words	4	5.7	3	D

### Travel Times



## Preserving More Than Memories

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Seashells are not just pretty castaways waiting to be discovered. They are used as homes for organisms, nests for birds, and places for small fish to take refuge from predators. Their removal can play a role in beach erosion as well. Shell surfaces give a place for algae to grow, and they help to anchor sea grass.

What does adversely mean?

- A. imperfectly
- B. inadequately
- C. unreliably
- D. unfavorably

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#59	<b>Inference</b> Infer/Draw conclusions	1	4.4	1	A

<b>Megastore Company</b> Employee Performance Record	
<b>Employee Name:</b> Sebastian Reynolds	
<b>Supervisor Conducting Review:</b> Manuel	
<b>Date:</b>	<b>Performance Review</b>
July 12	<p><b>Observations:</b> Sebastian's precision with order fulfillment continues to surpass expectations. He takes pride in his work and responds well to feedback, although he does seem to hesitate at times to ask for guidance. In addition, Sebastian works as a team player, is always polite, friendly, and willing to assist both coworkers and customers, often offering viable solutions to problems at hand. He is never absent from work without the necessary documentation.</p> <p><b>Recommendations:</b> Sebastian has demonstrated qualities that show a potential for leadership. Assessment for management capabilities and possible leadership training should be considered.</p>
December 4	<p><b>Observations:</b> Sebastian always asks questions when he does not understand something. His work <u>accuracy</u> and positive customer reviews have increased in the last six months. Records show that Sebastian had the most orders filled of all employees in the previous two months.</p> <p><b>Recommendations:</b> Since overcoming personal challenges, Sebastian's work has improved tremendously. Continue to make Sebastian aware of his work achievements.</p>

What does Manuel's recommendation in the July 12 review suggest about Sebastian?

- A. Sebastian might make a good supervisor with proper training.
- B. Sebastian has some personal issues that he needs to address.
- C. Sebastian does not readily offer to help others when needed.
- D. Sebastian and other employees need to meet with management.

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#60	<b>Inference</b> Infer/Draw conclusions	1	4.4	1	C

<b>Megastore Company</b> Employee Performance Record	
<b>Employee Name:</b> Sebastian Reynolds	
<b>Supervisor Conducting Review:</b> Manuel	
<b>Date:</b>	<b>Performance Review</b>
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What does Manuel suggest about Sebastian in *both* reviews?

- A. Sebastian actively looks for feedback and support as needed.
- B. Sebastian needs to notify others when orders are overwhelming.
- C. Sebastian gets along well with people in various situations.
- D. Sebastian has had perfect attendance for the past two months.

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#61	<b>Vocabulary</b> Understand academic words	4	4.4	1	B

<b>Megastore Company</b> Employee Performance Record	
<b>Employee Name:</b> Sebastian Reynolds	
<b>Supervisor Conducting Review:</b> Manuel	
<b>Date:</b>	<b>Performance Review</b>
July 12	<p><b>Observations:</b> Sebastian's precision with order fulfillment continues to surpass expectations. He takes pride in his work and responds well to feedback, although he does seem to hesitate at times to ask for guidance. In addition, Sebastian works as a team player, is always polite, friendly, and willing to assist both coworkers and customers, often offering viable solutions to problems at hand. He is never absent from work without the necessary documentation.</p> <p><b>Recommendations:</b> Sebastian has demonstrated qualities that show a potential for leadership. Assessment for management capabilities and possible leadership training should be considered.</p>
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What does accuracy mean?

- A. attitude
- B. exactness
- C. speed
- D. performance

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#62	Main Idea Summarize	2	2.6	3	C

## Gardening Blog

by Nina Foster



☒ February 5

Do you ever wonder why your garden doesn't generate the bountiful harvest promised in gardening articles? During my early days of gardening, I was disappointed more than once by the limited number of strawberries or cucumbers my closely nurtured plants produced. I wondered why my outcome was so different from that of the authors in those articles. Wondering if I lacked a "green thumb" – a natural talent for growing plants — I continued to plant and learn. In time, it became clear that I needed to discover the fundamental features of my garden space: the makeup and acidity of the soil, the patterns of sun and shade, the pests inhabiting my garden, and the best deterrent against those nuisances. Only after I came to understand these did my garden begin to flourish. So as spring approaches, instead of spending time reading that overgeneralized article touting the best plants to grow, spend the time and effort practicing the ancient Greek aphorism, know thy garden!



What is the *best* summary of this blog entry?

- A. The writer discovered that the reason her garden produced poorly was because of where it was located.
- B. The writer was disappointed with her garden year after year and began to worry that she lacked natural talent.
- C. The writer learned that understanding the conditions of a garden is the most important element of successful gardening.
- D. The writer hoped her garden would produce as many fruits and vegetables as promised in gardening articles.

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#63	<b>Point of View and Evidence</b> Identify supporting evidence	8	2.6	3	C

## Gardening Blog

by Nina Foster



### ✓ February 5

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How does the writer support her claims about gardening practices?

- A. by comparing her own garden to that of her neighbors
- B. by explaining the science of planting and growing vegetables
- C. by describing her personal experience growing her own garden
- D. by analyzing her first crop of strawberries and cucumbers

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#64	<b>Vocabulary</b> Understand academic words	4	2.6	3	B

## Gardening Blog

by Nina Foster



### ✓ February 5

Do you ever wonder why your garden doesn't generate the bountiful harvest promised in gardening articles? During my early days of gardening, I was disappointed more than once by the limited number of strawberries or cucumbers my closely nurtured plants produced. I wondered why my outcome was so different from that of the authors in those articles. Wondering if I lacked a "green thumb" – a natural talent for growing plants — I continued to plant and learn. In time, it became clear that I needed to discover the fundamental features of my garden space: the makeup and acidity of the soil, the patterns of sun and shade, the pests inhabiting my garden, and the best deterrent against those nuisances. Only after I came to understand these did my garden begin to flourish. So as spring approaches, instead of spending time reading that overgeneralized article touting the best plants to grow, spend the time and effort practicing the ancient Greek aphorism, know thy garden!

Which word *best* matches the meaning of fundamental?

- A. apparent
- B. essential
- C. independent
- D. universal

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#65	<b>Details</b> Compare details between texts	9	5.6	3	A

## Hilldale News

### Speak Out! [Hilldale Opinion Page](#)

The City Center of Hilldale suffers from poor air quality caused by traffic congestion. Should the City Council mandate a “car-free zone” downtown to encourage the use of public transportation?

#### My opinion: Mayor Simon Rigby

While I support public transportation, hate to be stuck in traffic, and have promised to reduce pollution, I also firmly believe in individual freedom and choice.

You can't just make people less dependent on their cars. Forcing people to use public transportation will only make them resentful and they'll stop coming downtown. This would be a huge financial loss to businesses in the city. Let's think of other ways to encourage the use of public transportation.

#### My opinion: Lois Dibbs, Director of Citizens for Clean Cities

A “car-free zone” is a fantastic way to encourage people to try using public transportation.

People will love the many advantages of our subway and bus system, including the inexpensive fare and air-conditioned ride. They'll appreciate being able to read or rest instead of having to focus on driving in traffic. What's more, using public transportation instead of cars will lower air pollution, which is a critical problem. Let's at least try it and if it doesn't work, there may be another way!

*Both* the mayor and Lois Dibbs have the idea that \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. the issue of air pollution must be addressed
- B. public transportation will benefit the economy
- C. few people from the suburbs visit downtown anyway
- D. the way to decrease car dependence is through education

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#66	<b>Details</b> Compare details between texts	9	5.6	3	C

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Which statement would the mayor and Lois Dibbs *most likely* agree about?

- A. The cost of public transportation is too high.
- B. Getting around town is more convenient with a car.
- C. Finding the best solution may require trying different approaches.
- D. Getting people to accept change will be challenging.

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#67	<b>Supporting Evidence</b> Identify supporting evidence	8	5.6	3	A

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The mayor claims that a no-car zone would hurt businesses. What evidence does he provide to support his claim?

- A. People would feel resentful and stop coming downtown.
- B. People don't visit downtown businesses because of traffic.
- C. People aren't used to taking public transportation to go shopping.
- D. People want to visit businesses that are within walking distance.

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#68	<b>Vocabulary</b> Understand academic words	4	5.6	3	C

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What does dependent mean?

- A. content
- B. practical
- C. reliant
- D. specific

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#69	<b>Point of View and Evidence</b> Identify an author's point of view	6	4.2	3	B



### August Edition: Workplace Topics and You

By Megan Sherman

Since the 1920s, when Henry Ford closely observed the productivity of his employees in relation to their amount of time on the clock, research studies have upheld Ford's findings that employees do their best work when well-rested. Despite this, some employers, and even employees, don't always adopt implement best practices, which is what led to labor laws mandating breaks. However, even those laws do not adequately address the implications of the productivity data from a recent study. This research showed the best way to increase productivity is not to put in more hours, but rather to routinely take breaks. The author of this study concluded that the perfect ratio of work time to break time is 52 minutes of non-stop focused work to 17 minutes of activity away from all work tasks.

It turns out that workplaces that offer both workplace protections and education about taking breaks result in employees feeling satisfied with their work environment. However, some workers don't always have the option to take the time they need to rest at work. More labor laws and enforcement of existing laws related to breaks would help ensure that all workers can be their most productive selves at work.

What is the writer's main point?

- A. Workers need to develop more self-discipline and awareness to make sure they are optimally productive.
- B. Current labor laws and common practices do not align with the findings of research on worker productivity.
- C. Taking frequent breaks is good in theory, but it is logistically difficult to coordinate in most modern workplaces.
- D. Measures of worker productivity have changed dramatically since early research into the topic.

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#70	<b>Inference</b> Infer/Draw conclusions	1	4.2	3	B



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The writer would *most likely* agree that \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. workers experience higher productivity after taking longer breaks as opposed to shorter ones
- B. a person's ability to focus while working can only be sustained for a limited amount of time
- C. workers know when it becomes hard to focus, so they should take breaks as needed
- D. motivated workers are more productive because they can focus for longer periods of time

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#71	<b>Point of View and Evidence</b> Identify supporting evidence	8	4.2	3	D



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The writer supports her claim about worker productivity by \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. presenting legal cases about employment law
- B. quoting Henry Ford's observations of his workers
- C. giving a detailed explanation of her theory
- D. referencing data from a research study

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#72	<b>Vocabulary</b> Understand academic words	4	4.2	3	C



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What does implications mean?

- A. obligations
- B. probabilities
- C. indications
- D. liabilities

## NRS Educational Functioning Level

### **Level 6**

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#73	<b>Main Idea</b> Identify an author's purpose	6	4.1	3	D

## San Pico News

### Attracting Workers in San Pico

As cities around the state become more expensive and congested, residents are looking for new places to work and live. Jack Sherman, director at the San Pico Workforce Board shared the chart below during a public informational session earlier this week seeking to attract people to the city. He stated, "If you're looking for a career, San Pico is a great place for you. In the chart you'll see the prominent job sectors here."

#### San Pico County Data

Major Job Sector	Number Of People Employed
Advanced Manufacturing	9,229
Education & Human Development	209,017
Construction & Utilities	14,899
Health Care	15,775
Communication Technology	3,831
Life Sciences & Biotechnology	6,471
Public Administration	11,878

"The employment numbers in these job sectors have held steady over time. If they dip, they only do so marginally, and they always bounce back. For that reason, even if the country enters a recession, San Pico is a great place to be. You'll find work here; I guarantee it."

What is the purpose of the table?

- A. to show the growing employment trends over the years in San Pico
- B. to provide evidence for the need to bring in new workers to San Pico
- C. to explain difficulties many people are having finding work in San Pico
- D. to show which job sectors people should consider joining in San Pico



Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#74	<b>Point of View and Supporting Evidence</b> Identify supporting evidence	8	4.1	3	C

## San Pico News

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Jack Sherman says that residents should pursue a career in San Pico even during a recession. What evidence does he provide to support his opinion?

- A. He explains multiple benefits of life in San Pico, such as education and healthcare.
- B. He provides data from certain job sectors that did well during past recessions.
- C. He states that long-term data shows that jobs in many sectors are reliable over time.
- D. He shows that San Pico pays higher wages than even some bigger cities in the state.

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#75	<b>Vocabulary</b> Understand academic words	4	4.1	3	B

## San Pico News

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“The employment numbers in these job sectors have held steady over time. If they dip, they only do so marginally, and they always bounce back. For that reason, even if the country enters a recession, San Pico is a great place to be. You’ll find work here; I guarantee it.”

What is Jack Sherman's tone in his quote about pursuing a career in San Pico?

- A. arrogant
- B. confident
- C. neutral
- D. worried

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#76	<b>Vocabulary</b> Understand academic words	4	4.1	3	C

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"The employment numbers in these job sectors have held steady over time. If they dip, they only do so marginally, and they always bounce back. For that reason, even if the country enters a recession, San Pico is a great place to be. You'll find work here; I guarantee it."

What does marginally mean?

- A. considerably
- B. equally
- C. slightly
- D. substantially

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#77	<b>Point of View and Supporting Evidence</b> Identify an author's point of view	6	5.6	3	C

Local News 10


**"Our City Matters"**  
**Should our city be considered for an Olympics Games host city?**

**Commenter 1**

If our city is selected as a candidate city, it is required to pay an astronomical fee just to be further considered. This "further consideration" includes an estimate on how many more millions of dollars the city would have to spend to become an approved Olympics Games host city. Without even knowing if the city will get a return on its investment, paying out this fee is imprudent and risky. And where was the chance for residents to voice their opinions on the matter? The city will argue that this decision is in the economic best interest of all residents due to millions of dollars of revenue from tourism and would spotlight the city as a destination for future property ownership and business investments. If given the opportunity, I would rebut that with a simple fact: residents and taxpayers are left holding the bag right now.

**Commenter 2**

Were we to become an Olympics host city, there would be numerous positive opportunities for residents given adequate long-term planning. There are reports of residents in previous host cities being displaced to make room for sporting venues and additional accommodations for athletes, tourists, and journalists. In the absence of strategic planning, I do wonder what things would look like after all the hubbub and media frenzy has faded away and everyone has gone home. Infrastructure developed for a one-time event could later fall into disrepair and abandonment. If the city is considering becoming a host city, it should also be weighing how an international event of this magnitude will undoubtedly affect the residents' quality of life during the event, and most especially, after the event concludes.


What is the main point of Commenter 1?

- A. The investment in new infrastructure that would be required to become a host city candidate is a flawed one.
- B. Putting in a bid to become a host city without allowing residents to vote on a proposition about it first demonstrates bad governance.
- C. Making taxpayers pay an exorbitant fee to be considered as a host city is irresponsible because the city may not even receive approval.
- D. The immediate and future revenue that would be gained from being a host city does not factor in the initial fee required for a bid.



Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#78	<b>Inference</b> Infer/Draw conclusions	1	5.6	3	D

Local News 10


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**Commenter 2**


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Commenter 2 would *most likely* agree that \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. the city does not have the money or space to build additional infrastructure for a one-time event
- B. media scrutiny of the city during the event will create additional problems for residents in the future
- C. tourists and journalists will not treat the venues with the same care and respect as city residents
- D. any new development should have an explicit benefit for local city residents for years to come

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#79	<b>Point of View and Supporting Evidence</b> Identify supporting evidence	8	5.6	3	B

## Local News 10



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Commenter 2 claims that preparing to host the Olympics would significantly affect residents. How does she support this claim?

- A. She suggests ways that new infrastructure can be developed after the Olympics is over.
- B. She mentions impacts on residents of other cities that have hosted the Olympics in the past.
- C. She describes the potential fiscal impact of hosting an event for thousands of people over a short period of time.
- D. She provides a counterargument from the city promoting potential revenue to be gained from outside investors.

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#80	<b>Vocabulary</b> Understand figurative language	4	5.6	3	B

## Local News 10



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**Commenter 1**

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What does left holding the bag mean?

- A. left with little warning of possible effects
- B. left with an unwelcome responsibility
- C. left with unanswered questions
- D. left with little money remaining



Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#81	<b>Point of View and Supporting Evidence</b> Identify an author's point of view	6	5.7	3	D



## On Procrastination

Procrastination is a strange beast. The meaning of the word “procrastination” in Latin is to “put something off until tomorrow,” but the Greek etymology reveals procrastination’s illogical nature — “to do something against our better judgment.” We avoid a difficult task that might initiate feelings of self-doubt or worry, ironically, to experience sweet relief as a reward for putting off the unpleasant, thus propelling an irrational cycle.

Upon realizing the consequence of our behavior, we admonish ourselves for our lack of time management skills or for our laziness. Yet, far from being a character flaw, the heart of the matter as to why people procrastinate lies instead in the poor regulation of feelings. Negative thoughts, often rooted in insecurity, start as tiny seeds that develop into strong branches leading us away from the task at hand. The emotions underlying these thoughts deserve our attention if we wish to manage procrastination. The advice in the ubiquitous articles on the internet proclaiming “How to Stop Procrastinating” will only serve as successful formulas if we reckon first with the true crux of the issue.

What is the writer's main point?

- A. People who judge themselves for having negative emotions tend to procrastinate.
- B. Procrastination can be difficult to tackle because its root cause is unknown.
- C. The first step in overcoming procrastination is to attempt to boost willpower.
- D. Procrastination stems from negative moods rather than an inherent weakness.



Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#82	<b>Point of View and Supporting Evidence</b> Identify supporting evidence	8	5.7	3	A



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The writer claims that procrastination is an irrational cycle. What evidence does she provide to support this claim?

- A. the origins of the word
- B. her personal experiences at work
- C. a relevant example from the internet
- D. her findings based on scientific research

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#83	<b>Vocabulary</b> Understand figurative language	4	5.7	3	C



## On Procrastination

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What does the heart of the matter mean?

- A. the least flexible element
- B. the least understood part
- C. the most vital element
- D. the most emotional part

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#84	<b>Point of View and Supporting Evidence</b> Identify an author's point of view	6	5.7	3	A



### Gardening Corner: On Lawns

The prevalence of a perfect lawn surrounding the American home has its origins as experimental landscaping by the wealthy who had visited Europe and witnessed the landscape transformations there in the 18th century. Little by little, the coveted lawn became a symbol of one's success and the norm for even the middle class across the country. In addition, a movement to create public parks with communal lawn areas proliferated in the United States, which explains how lawns became the most grown crop in the United States.

However, maintaining neatly kept lawns at the standards set in part by the lawn care industry demands not only the energy required to mow regularly, but also vast amounts of water and resources. Unbeknownst to many people is the level of toxicity of fertilizers, herbicides, and insecticides essential to keep lawns green, which then disperse into our air, soil, and waterways. As a result, lawns have pushed out the natural biodiversity of wild grasslands, affecting pollinators, among other negative consequences. Although the lawn is entrenched in the American landscape, what started as a benign expression of social status has grown into something quite the opposite.

- Patricia López

Recently, lawns have gotten a bad reputation, with a one-sided view painting a picture that hides what made them so popular in the first place. Lawns not only boast attractive landscaping, but also function as places to gather and entertain. Playing games, either with one's kids or dog, works much more easily with a flat open expanse, whether in the backyard or at a city park.

What is more, many people remain unaware that lawns are advantageous to the environment in various ways. The extensive root systems of lawns capture storm runoff which prevents flooding, and they soak up carbon and airborne particulates, which as a result, cleans the air. Thus, entities such as government and water companies should educate and offer incentives to change America's lawncare approach at its core. By aiding homeowners and landscaping companies in identifying grasses better suited to local ecosystems, treating lawns with natural ingredients for weed and pest management, and steering clear of harsh chemicals, these entities can return the ubiquitous lawn to a more natural state. Needless to say, where there's a will, there's a way.

- Samuel Sorenson

What is Patricia López's point of view about lawn maintenance?

- A. It is an expensive practice that wastes time and energy.
- B. It is a complex issue that got its humble start in the United States.
- C. It is understandable that so many homeowners attempt to do it.
- D. It is impressive that it boosts the crop industry in the United States.



Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#85	<b>Inference</b> Infer/Draw conclusions	1	5.7	3	C



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Patricia López would *most likely* agree that \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. lawns have their place in parks and other common meeting areas
- B. lawns should be used to signify an American's level of success
- C. lawns have become a detriment despite their prevalence in the United States
- D. the lawncare industry should be held accountable for its environmental impact



Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#86	<b>Main Idea</b> Summarize	2	5.7	3	D



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What is the *best* summary of Samuel Sorenson's article?

- A. People have come to view lawns negatively because of the great expense of maintaining them.
- B. Lawns have earned their reputation as harmful to the environment and they have become outdated.
- C. People who maintain a lawn for purely nostalgic reasons are not considering the issue carefully.
- D. Lawns have the potential to be eco-friendly despite the unfair negative attention they have received.

Item	Content Area	CCR Standard	CASAS Competency	Task Area	Key
#87	<b>Vocabulary</b> Understand academic words	4	5.7	3	D



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What does incentives mean?

- A. regulation
- B. productivity
- C. evidence
- D. motivation