



New Tech Network

Task Sorting Activity

New Tech Network created this document for use during a professional development workshop on creating authentic tasks. During the activity, the tasks below are cut into strips and teachers are asked to sort them from highest quality to lowest quality using NTN's Task Quality Checklist.

Tasks for Sorting

1. Science, Grades 3-4: Should animals be kept in zoos? After reading informational texts on animals and zoos, write an essay in which you answer the question and explain your reasons for your answer. Support your opinion with evidence from the text/s.
2. World History: After researching the origins of religious conflict amongst the five major religions of the world (Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Judaism & Christianity), write an essay that compares the fundamental similarities of all belief systems which will argue that it is not the religion that causes the conflict but rather that every individual has a unique mind, personality, and religious experience and these characteristics of human nature make conflict inevitable. Be sure to support your position with evidence from the texts. Be sure to acknowledge competing views. (Argumentation/Comparison)
3. ELA: What implications about the deeper meaning of the novel can you draw from the themes that reveals the author's message? After reading your coming of age novel, define and explain the major themes and develop an argument that discusses how the themes contribute to a deeper understanding of the author's message. Support your discussion with evidence from the text(s). Make sure to cite quotations using the correct format.
4. Geometry: After viewing the data sheet that includes dimensions and material cost of various size chicken soup cans, write a page explanation that addresses and analyzes the question: is it better to purchase one family size can of soup or two regular size cans? Please include diagrams, formulas and work to support your analysis. Take in consideration both geometric and environmental decisions in your analysis. What conclusions or implications can you draw?
5. Digital Media: After creating their preliminary designs of the Memorial Park website, please have your students email me an update of what their websites look like at this point in time. Using specific examples from their website, students should talk about how their website is designed and organized and why this would be good for the Parks department. Include an argument about why we should choose their design.
6. Biology: After reading *The Omnivore's Dilemma* by Michael Pollan, articles from professional databases, and one credible database source of your own, write a 3 to 5 page researched paper that discusses one factor that contributes to the Food Crisis and evaluate its impact on the sustainability of future food resources.
7. After creating your learning manifesto for the year, plan how you'll develop and grow your own sense of agency over the course of the year.