7 Strands

Strand 6 is the Composition Strand
4 Domains

Listening
Speaking
Reading
Writing
What do the TEKS have to say in Grades 3-8?

Subtle words are meaningful!

Grades 3-5
- "Informational texts, including brief compositions"
- "Argumentative texts, including speeches"

Grades 6-8
- "Compose informational texts, including multi-paragraph essays"

It is unclear how the state will handle "such as" TEKS. Be prepared for anything!
pretend that the information below is the content of the sources/passages used in the following activities.

Source #1: A passage all about entertainment on a cruise ship.

Source #2: A passage all about entertainment at a professional ball game.

Source #3: A passage all about entertainment found at an amusement park.
What types of Short Answer Questions exist?

Reference to a particular passage/source:
TRAVELLING ON A CRUISE SHIP CAN BE ENTERTAINING.
SUPPORT THIS STATEMENT WITH TWO REASONS FROM SOURCE #1.

Crossover between passages/sources:
ENTERTAINMENT CAN BE FOUND IN A VARIETY OF PLACES.
SUPPORT THIS STATEMENT WITH REASONS FROM ALL THREE SOURCES.
What types of Short Answer Questions exist?

Using facts and details provided:

Choose facts and details from the student notes provided regarding entertainment at sporting events to develop a paragraph that begins with the underlined sentence.

Predictions:

Based on source #2, write a response that predicts what will happen in the future of entertainment.
What types of Short Answer Questions exist?

Inference:

Based on all three sources, write a response that shows how entertainment changed from event to event.

In the case of a literary piece, it could look like this! Write about the growth of the protagonist in passage #3 or compare the growth of the characters in each of the passages.
What types of Short Answer Questions exist?

Opinions:
After reading all three sources provided, what do you believe is the most important aspect of entertainment at any venue?

Reference to a particular passage/source:
Travelling on a cruise ship can be entertaining. Support this statement with two reasons from source #1.
What types of Short Answer Questions exist?

Add to an essay:
A student is writing a paper all about entertainment found at amusement parks. He needs help writing his conclusion. Write a conclusion to end his paper effectively based on what he has already included in his composition.

Exchange part of an essay:
A student is writing an essay about the entertainment on cruise ships for her class. The underlined portion of paragraph two could be stronger. Rewrite the underlined sentences so that they include quality development.
Topic
What it’s all about

Charge
What to do with the topic
(Textual Evidence to support conclusion)

Conclusion
Personal Interpretation
(predict, infer, or provide opinion)
I predict...

I think...

I believe...

I found...

**Terminology**

**Brief Answer Reading Response**


**PREDICTIONS**

Making predictions is a strategy in which readers use information from a text (including titles, headings, pictures, and diagrams) and their own personal experiences to anticipate what they are about to read (or what comes next).

(future tense)

**INFERENCES**

Making an inference involves using what you know to make a guess about what you don't know or reading between the lines. Readers who make inferences use the clues in the text along with their own experiences to help them figure out what is not directly said.

(past or present tense)

**Textual Evidence**

Text evidence is any evidence from a fiction or nonfiction text that can be used to support ideas, arguments, opinions, and thoughts. When we cite textual evidence, we paraphrase, quote, or refer to the specific part of the text that we are using to back up or support our thoughts and ideas.

(opinion)

An opinion is a statement that holds an element of belief; it tells how someone feels. An opinion is not always true and cannot be proven.

(present tense)
**One Man's Treasure...**

"Ding ding!" went the empty can that my friend was holding inside the cubby. I shuffled my feet as we walked and watched the dust rise from the street. It was one of those Saturdays when we had nothing to do. We decided just to start walking and see if we would come upon an adventure. I walked with my head down, looking at my feet. I stopped when I saw a penny. I picked it up and looked at it. "That's not worth anything," my friend said. I agreed, but I tucked it in my pocket.

We took a shortcut across a park. "Want to climb that tree?" I asked my friend. "Noah," he replied. "We just keep walking. Let's come to a field. My friend said that he brought his baseball. We considered throwing it around. Since we often played cards, we were hoping to have a better adventure than that this lazy Saturday afternoon. So... let's just keep walking.

Behind the field was a forest. We started cutting a path with sticks we picked up at the edge of the forest. We climbed under brush and over fallen limbs. "Whoa!" I heard my friend yell. He was in front of me and had hung his foot on a vine. He tripped forward, waving his hands in the air. I guess he had hoped to grab onto something to stop his fall, but he just grabbed air. Nothing stopped his fall. He rolled down the hill. I climbed down the hill by sitting up straight and asking. "Can I come?" I asked. "No. He remained stuck in the air. The door scratched. It was obvious that he was injured.

We carefully walked out of the forest. A ladder hanging down from a tree adventure. Maybe we had something that we should start with the adventure. I fell carefully holding a small bat and into the attic and huddled with another. "No, you don't want the stick," he replied. "It's too long."

I reached into my pocket to pick up the stick. The money from years ago. I thought it wasn't worth anything.

---

**Guess What's Really Happening**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st Paragraph</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This is a prediction....</td>
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<tr>
<td>The penny will mean something.</td>
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<tr>
<td>This is an inference....</td>
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<tr>
<td>His friend wasn't excited about the adventure.</td>
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<tr>
<th>2nd Paragraph</th>
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<tr>
<td>This is a prediction....</td>
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<tr>
<td>The penny will mean something.</td>
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<tr>
<td>This is an inference....</td>
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<tr>
<td>His friend wasn't excited about the adventure.</td>
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</table>
YOUR B.E.S.T. OPINIONS

Opinions are derived from people’s reactions using their senses, past experiences, current knowledge base, and the time (age) of their life when they express an opinion.

**Base of current knowledge a person possesses at the time an opinion is expressed.**

**Experience that a person has had leading up to the point the opinion is shared.**

**Senses that a person uses that affect their thinking at the time the opinion is made.**

**Time of their life, or age, when an opinion is expressed.**

*Based on the B.E.S.T. opinions technique, people’s opinions tend to change over time as they grow older, add to their experiences, and gain more knowledge.*
The B.E.S.T. Match-Up!

- Read a prompt and then complete the matching game below.
- Cut apart and trade with a friend to match cards back together.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Base of current knowledge</th>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
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<table>
<thead>
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<th>Experiences</th>
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<th>Senses</th>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Time of life</th>
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</table>

Write about why it is important to make good grades.

Share the importance of knowing how to type.

Explain the importance of being kind to new people.

Write about why people should practice good manners.

Explain all about the reasons everyone should eat healthy.

Write about the importance of having clean water to drink.
A Lonely Leopard Life

A leopard is a "king-of-the-jungle" type animal. A mother leopard will even run off the father of her cubs to protect her young. This is because they are extremely territorial, and the father might think the young is taking its territory. They mark territory by scratching trees. This animal is one of the big five, not because of its size, but because of its dangerous predators when hunting prey. These animals are known as the "king" of the predators of South Africa.

2. When looking at a leopard, you may not think that it is necessarily good at blending in with its environment due to its yellowish coat, but you would be wrong. They blend in quite well with their surroundings.

3. These animals are not the fastest of the big cats, so they get away from them in a chase. However, with the element of surprise, they will not stand a chance. A leopard will either stop, hide, and stalk its prey, or it will sit in a tree and use its height to pounce down on an unsuspecting impala, wildebeest, or zebra.

4. After a leopard has snuck up on its future meal, it will begin to turn its prey into a tree so that other predators do not see them, once again demonstrating that the leopard trulycryptical.

A Pride's Thrill of the Hunt

1. A lion is known as the king of the savanna known as the "king" because the king can take on the responsibility of the pride. It's all about the roar. The male lion's roar can be heard up to five miles away. No matter how far away, the roar of a lion cannot be mistaken.

2. Aside from the roar, a lion's roar consists of four distinct sounds. Male lions possess a mellow growl, a deep growl, and a roar that makes them sound even more dangerous. A lion's roar is the loudest of all the animal's voices.

3. The reason these animals are the true apex predators of the African bush is because they are the apex predator of the big cats. Male lions will often defend their territory, while the females will defend their cubs. Imagine the feeling of ten lions walking in your direction. The most common behavior is to retreat and escape from the pride of the jungle.

4. A combination of superior sight, scent, and group hunting tendencies allow the lion to have no natural predators. They are the true king of the jungle.

The Proof is in the Rhino Poop

1. When in the African wilderness, tracking animals is of utmost importance. Looking at tracks is one approach, but sometimes tracks are misleading. A good person never wants to come across an unfamiliar animal in the African bush. One way to determine an animal's tracks is to match them up with the poop that follows along the tracks.

2. When tracking in the South African bush, many animals' poop looks very similar in terms of size and color. For example, a white rhino and a black rhino's poop look very similar. It is important to know the behavior and diet of these animals to determine the difference.

3. With these two animals, it is imperative to know which one is being tracked because a black rhino is far more aggressive than a white rhino. A white rhino will dig a hole that the entire herd will defend in, while a black rhino will kick a hole in the ground where the herd will defend and then the alpha will dispose the stool. Additionally, look at the contents of the stool; a white rhino will have grass, while a black rhino will have leaves.

4. Watching animal tracks can only take a hiker so far regarding safety. The elements can destroy tracks much quicker than excretions, thus making detection a great tool for animal identification and human safety.
Raising the B.A.R.R.
Expository Reference Prompt

Write about why lions are known as the king of the jungle. Provide two examples of support.

Topic:
lions

Charge:
Why they are known as king of the jungle

Conclusion:
Comes later
The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Bad</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(details I may include)</td>
<td>(details I will not include)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Roar</td>
<td>- Their big bite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Travel in prides</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Giant mane</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ugly</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(things I promise not to write)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Hi, my name is....</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- This is all about lions......</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tackling the B.A.R.R.

Write about why lions are known as the king of the jungle. Provide two examples of support.

1. Trait after trait solves the debate over who is the formidable king of the jungle. Whether it is the "115 decibel" roar or the fact that "it can be heard from about five miles away," everyone's level of being scared goes out the roof! To top that off, the pride of lions that methodically wind their way through the jungle makes for an intimidating scene. After all, they are the only species of the big cat family that takes their family with them wherever they go.

This "true apex" of animals is feared by animals and humans alike.

2. Lions are the king of the jungle because they have a "bite force of about 200 pounds." This would really hurt!
Pitfalls of Brief Answer Responses

Don't Miss Out!

The following responses are examples of short answer responses that are missing a key component. Can you decipher what it is? Write what is missing in the box to the right.

- Provides only one example
- Contains only "conclusions"
- Contains only examples & NO "conclusions"

Off Base!

The following responses are examples of short answer responses that contain off base (or wrong) information. Trade with a friend. Cross out details that are off base with the following submissions:

- Talk about animal other than lion
  -----------------------------
  Makes wrong inference

- Talk about bite force
  -----------------------------
  Makes wrong prediction

- Provides NO examples
  -----------------------------
  Makes wrong "conclusion"
Raising the B.A.R.R.
Expository Crossover Prompt

Humans and animals have various reasons for exhibiting unique relationships. Support this statement with evidence from Sources 1, 2, and 3.
## Short Answer Foldable

**Source #1:** A source all about the different relationships between wild dogs and domesticated dogs.  
**Source #2:** A source all about how dangerous hippos are toward humans.  
**Source #3:** A source all about the symbiotic relationship between the zebra and the wildebeest.

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How/Why</th>
<th>Reading Response L.O.G. (Learn - Organize - Generate)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Passage Title(s):</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Listen or Read the Passage/Source to Learn the Content:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Rewrite Question/Statement:**

Humans and animals have various reasons for exhibiting unique relationships.  
Support this statement from evidence from sources 1, 2, and 3.

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Charge</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Various relationships between animals and humans</td>
<td>Why are these relationships different?</td>
<td>Sources 1, 2, and 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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[readingWRITE.org](http://readingWRITE.org)
Short Answer Foldable

Pieces of a Thesis

Write a thesis statement that introduces your topic and states your charge. (Because/In order to)

Many relationships exist between humans and animals for a variety of reasons.

Circle your topic. Box in your charge.
Short Answer Foldable

**Seek Out the Sentence! (Textual Evidence)**

*This statement could appear before, within, or after your conclusion.*

1. “may not have a wild side within their domesticated brains”

**Your Conclusion Creation (Personal Interpretation)**

*(Write a sentence that introduces or explains your evidence.)*

Domesticated dogs have become known as man’s best friend.

Caution, Anecdote, Fact, Example, Prediction, Lesson Learned, Understanding, Situation

readingWRITE.org
A human better climb up a tree to get away from a hippo if a hippo is charging.

Any animal that can run that fast under water, is not a friend of mine!
**Short Answer Foldable**

Seek Out the Sentence! (Textual Evidence)
*The statement could appear before, within, or after your conclusion.

```
3

"Wildebeest have a great sense of hearing, while zebra have fantastic eyesight."
```

Your Conclusion Creation (Personal Interpretation)
(Write a sentence that introduces or explains your evidence.)

```
Everyone should find friendship like the one between a wildebeest and a zebra.
```

Caution  Anecdote  Fact  Example  Prediction  Lesson Learned  Understanding  Situation
Many relationships exist between humans and animals for a variety of reasons. Domesticated dogs have become known as man's best friend because they, "don't have a wild side in their domesticated brains." On the other hand, a human better climb a tree to get away from a hippo. I know that any animal who can run 30 MPH under water is no friend of mine! A perfect relationship can be found in the wildebeest for his hearing and the zebra who has great eyesight. All in all, know who your friends are and stay away from the rest!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic Addressed - Yes/No</th>
<th>Does your number of textual evidence pieces match your number on front - Yes/No</th>
<th>Is your conclusion supported by the evidence? - Yess/No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If yes, then</td>
<td>Does your evidence refer to the correct source? - Yes/No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If both are yes, then place a tally

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Of course, we do not know exactly what the questions will look like, and we do not know what the grading piece will look like, but from following trends, we can make educated predictions.
Nothing is impossible if we start early and often!

Please keep in mind that nothing is set in stone regarding the types of short answer questions that may appear on the new test. However, it is important to note that there are only a certain number of options that can be created to tackle this part of the test. Committees of talented educators will work tirelessly over the next months and years creating a test like Texas has never experienced before!

It is very wise to be prepared and aware of the possibilities. I highly encourage you to seek out creative methods to introduce, teach, and maintain short answer concepts in a BIG way! This may include interActivities, small chunking, foldables, and manipulatives, to name a few. Regardless of which BIG methods you choose, choose them often, teach them across all grade levels, and make sure to utilize all 4 Domains!

"THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE IMPOSSIBLE AND THE POSSIBLE IS IN A PERSON'S DETERMINATION" — TOMMY LASORDA
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