



## Elaboration for **Narrative Performance Task** Full Writes (Gr 3-8)

### **Definition of Elaboration**

In narratives, elaboration is the process of developing the setting(s), character(s), events, and ideas by the careful selection of pertinent, enriching details and the smooth integration of them into the narrative flow. These details may take the form of specific, sometimes vivid, word choice; sensory details; description; dialogue – to name a few.

A writer elaborates on his or her ideas so that a reader will be able to see and *feel* his or her story – in essence allowing the reader to relive the experience in a rich, meaningful way which conveys its significance. Thoughtful elaboration is guided by the purpose of the story, the point of view, and the needs of the audience.

Elaboration has the effect of *showing*, as well as slowing down and expanding, the important parts (scenes) of a story.

### **Three D's in Narrative Writing**

1. **Details** – Specific (often vivid) sensory words, phrases, or sentences that develop character(s), setting(s), and actions.
2. **Description** – Details that together create a picture (of a place, character, etc.), image, impression, or event.
3. **Dialogue** – Purposeful dialogue that advances the plot; reveals a character's thoughts, attitudes, and feelings; and presents information.

For Smarter Balanced purposes, the use of sources is to be loosely interpreted (for narrative *only*).

## Elaboration for **Opinion/Argumentative Performance Task** Full Writes

### **Definition of Elaboration**

Elaboration is the process of developing ideas by providing supporting details. These details may take the form of facts, definitions, examples (including selected, purposeful scenarios/anecdotes), descriptions, and quotations – to name a few. In argumentative writing, a writer elaborates by developing arguments to support a claim. Thoughtful elaboration is guided by the purpose for the writing and the needs of the audience.

### **Levels of Elaboration**

- 1. Listed support/elaboration:** A list of source-based arguments, facts, details, and/or source-based evidence. This list can easily be reordered without changing or confusing the meaning of the text.
- 2. General layered elaboration:** A sentence-to-sentence progression of source-based arguments, fact, details, and/or source-based evidence that generally develops and supports the claim. Source-based evidence, if present, may be in the form of general or imprecise references. Re-ordering of the text might impair the connection of ideas.
- 3. Specific layered elaboration:** A sentence-to-sentence progression of source-based arguments that specifically develops and supports the claim using precise language. A writer integrates specific and relevant source-based evidence—facts and details—into his or her arguments. Re-ordering of the text would more than likely impair the connection of ideas.

### Some **Argumentative/Opinion Techniques/Approaches**

- Claim (6+) or opinion (3-5) stated and maintained
- Sources are integrated in support of claim/opinion
- Specific purpose-specific vocabulary
- Problem solving
- Compromise solution or qualification of argument
- Alternate and opposing claims are addressed, acknowledged, rebutted, etc. (6+)
- Rhetorical questions or other rhetorical devices
- Logical reasoning (e.g., causal, arguing from analogy or definition, etc.) as appropriate to grade level

**Note:** forms/genres (e.g., essays, speeches, letters, magazine articles, website articles, etc.) affect elaboration.

## Elaboration for **Informative/Explanatory Performance Task** Full Writes

### **Definition of Elaboration**

Elaboration is the process of developing ideas by providing supporting details. These details (e.g., facts, sensory details, definitions, examples, anecdotes, scenarios, descriptions, quotations, etc.) are suitably explained and connected. A writer elaborates on his or her ideas so that a reader will understand more clearly what he or she is saying. Thoughtful elaboration is guided by the purpose for the writing and the needs of the audience.

### **Levels of Elaboration**

- 1. Listed support/elaboration:** A list of ideas that support the focus or idea. This list can easily be reordered without changing or confusing the meaning of the text.
- 2. General layered Elaboration:** A sentence-to-sentence progression of ideas/points, possible examples, and explanations that further develops and supports the focus or main idea. Source-based evidence, if present, may be in the form of general or imprecise references. Re-ordering of the text might sometimes impair the connection of ideas.
- 3. Specific layered Elaboration:** A sentence-to-sentence progression of ideas/points, possible examples, and explanations that specifically develops and supports the focus and main idea using precise language. A writer integrates specific and relevant source-based evidences—facts and details—into his or her explanation. Re-ordering of the text would often impair the connection of ideas.

### **Some Informative/Explanatory Elaboration Techniques/Approaches**

- Specific purpose-specific vocabulary
- Statistics (as appropriate for grade level)
- Evidence (includes data – survey or other – and/or research information (“experts say,” “research shows,” etc.).
- Ideas or points /suitably explained and elaborated
- Description
- Definition
- Process/Procedure
- Examples (which could include scenarios or anecdotes. Personal connections are not discouraged but do *not* substitute for the use of source-based evidence)

**Note:** forms/genres (e.g., essays, speeches, letters, magazine articles, website articles, etc.) affect elaboration.

**Definitions of informative/explanatory text:** Informational text **provides information** appropriate for the subject/audience. Informational text is focused on a “**central/main idea.**” Explanatory text **provides explanations** via thoughtful analysis/synthesis appropriate for the subject/audience. Explanatory text is “**thesis-driven.**”