

## The Reading Assessment

The NAEP reading assessment measures students' ability to understand, to interpret, and to think critically about different types of texts. Recognizing that readers vary their approach according to the demands of different types of text, the NAEP framework specifies the assessment of reading in three contexts: reading for literary experience, reading to gain information, and reading to perform a task. The assessment comprises reading materials selected from publications and other resources typically available to students in and out of school.

Across the three contexts for reading, students are asked to demonstrate their understanding by responding to comprehension questions that reflect four different approaches to understanding text. The NAEP framework accounts for these different approaches by specifying four aspects of reading that represent the types of comprehension questions asked of students. Forming a general understanding questions ask students to consider the text as a whole. Developing an interpretation questions ask students to discern connections and relationships within the text. Making reader/text connections questions ask students to connect information from the text with prior knowledge and experience. Examining content and structure questions ask students to critically evaluate the content, organization, and form of the text. All four aspects of reading are assessed at all three grades within the contexts for reading described above.

The NAEP reading assessment contains multiple-choice questions, as well as short and extended constructed-response questions. Students spend approximately 50 to 60 percent of their assessment time providing written answers to constructed-response questions. For more information regarding the reading assessment framework please visit <http://nagb.org>.

### ***NAEP Reading Framework Distribution of Question Pool Across Reading Contexts***

	<b>Grade 12</b>
Reading for Literary Experience	35%
Reading to Gain Information	45%
Reading to Perform a Task	20%

## Reading Booklet Directions

In each of the next two sections, you will have 25 minutes to read a story, an article, or a document and answer questions about it. You should think carefully about your answers, and you should use the entire 25 minutes to complete each section.

You will be asked to respond to three different types of questions. Some of the questions will require you to choose the best answer and fill in the oval for that answer in your booklet.

For other questions, you will be asked to write short answers on the blank lines provided in your booklet. Here is an example of a question that requires you to provide a short answer.

### Example 1

Give an example from the article that shows Mandy was not a quitter.

*One example is that Mandy's mother didn't want her to umpire in public, but Mandy persuaded her mother to let her.*

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE

Also, you may be asked to answer other questions by writing longer, more detailed responses on a full page of blank lines. For example, here is a question that requires you to provide a longer answer.

### Example 2

Explain how Mandy's mother and brother helped Mandy to become the first woman umpire.

Mandy's mother helped her by agreeing to let her umpire at a public ball game. Mandy did so well that the team offered her a job as umpire. Mandy's brother helped her by letting her play baseball with him. He also helped Mandy to persuade their mother to let her play in public.

When you are asked to write your response be sure that your handwriting is clear. Think carefully about each question and make your answers as complete as possible, using as many lines as you need.

You may go back to the story, article, or document when answering any of the questions. If you finish before time is called, be sure to read your work again and change anything that you think will make your answers better.



# Sample Reading Questions

## Reading to Perform a Task

### Grade 12

# BARGAIN BASEMENT

\$25 and under	\$25 and under	\$25 and under
<b>AIR CONDITIONER</b> Fedders, large works \$25. 555 1076	<b>COFFEE DECANTERS</b> — Glass \$2 new, have 5. 555 0688	<b>HAIR SALON FURNITURE</b> — Free. 555 8109
<b>ALL KINDS OF GOLF CLUBS</b> — \$20. after 3PM. 555 5507	<b>COUCH</b> — Early American nice \$20. 555 2145	<b>HEPA FILTER</b> — 12 x 12 \$25. Call 555 6127
<b>ANTIQUÉ WARDROBE</b> — Needs lt. work. 1st \$25. 555 1326	<b>CURTAINS</b> — Sheers 108x84 white \$20, call 555 6376	<b>HIGH CHAIR</b> — \$25. Century windup swing \$5. 555 0559
<b>ASSORTED SZS, WINDOWS &amp; DOORS</b> — \$25. 555 8261	<b>DESERT STORM</b> — Series 2 and 3 \$12 per box. 555 7093	<b>HOSE</b> — For sump pump new 13 ft. \$6. 555-5434
<b>BEACH UMBRELLAS</b> — \$5/each. 555 7092	<b>DESERT STORM</b> — Series 1 cards \$12 per box. 555 7093	<b>HOSTA</b> — 25¢ up, CORAL BELLES. Flowering Cabbage Plants, \$1. 555 2445
<b>BED FRAME</b> — Twin or Full size \$15. 555 0572	<b>DICK CEPEK BLACK LIGHT BAR</b> — \$15 new. 555 8109	<b>INSULATION</b> — 6" × 15' fiber glass \$8. roll. 555-1017 after 6 p.m.
<b>BIKE RACK</b> — \$20, cot \$10. call 555 7640	<b>ELEC. MOWER</b> — \$15 good outdoor chairs \$2. 555 6104	<b>JACK NICKLAUS GOLF CLUBS</b> — \$25. after 3 PM 555-5507
<b>BIKE</b> — Boys \$25 electricians supplies \$5 25. 555 7797	<b>ELECTRIC FENCE ITEMS</b> —Poles battery case etc. \$25. 555 0490	<b>JEAN JACKETS</b> — Med. was \$75 only \$25. 555-0608
<b>BIKE</b> — Girls 16" Schwinn VG Cond. \$25. 555 9724	<b>FARBER ELECTRIC BROILER</b> — \$15. 555 4783	<b>LADIES BETTER DRESSES</b> — size 9 12, \$2. 555 0750
<b>BLACK &amp; WHITE TV</b> — 20" good cond. \$25. 555 2924	<b>FLOOR TILE</b> — Armstrong white 1 box \$4. 555 6962	<b>LADIES BETTER DRESSES</b> — size 9-12, \$2. 555 0750
<b>BLACK LEATHER ROLL CAGE COVERS</b> — \$25. 555 8109	<b>FLOOR JACK</b> — 6 ft. hght \$10. call 555 5034	<b>LADIES BETTER DRESSES</b> — size 9 12, \$2. 555 0750
<b>BMX</b> — Free Style Bike nice \$25. Call 555 2124	<b>FORMICA</b> — 2' × 2' \$.25/each 2' × 4' \$.50 colors. 555 8597	<b>LAMPS</b> — Pictures Mr. Coffee Broiler \$1. up. 555 3575
<b>BOOKS</b> — PAPER BACKS — & hard covers. \$.15 - \$1. 555-0750	<b>FREE FIREWOOD</b> — Call 555-1823	<b>LAMPS</b> — 2 \$15/each 1 crib & mattress \$20. 555 0567
<b>BOWLING BALL</b> — w/leather bag \$25. 555 1138	<b>FREE ORANGE KITTEN</b> — (1). call 555 8392	<b>LAWN MOWER</b> — 22" push rotary \$20. 555-1457
<b>BOYS SUIT JACKETS</b> — One brown 1 blue sz. 12 \$10. 555 0608	<b>FREE RABBIT HUTCH</b> — Free standing 2' × 7'. 555 6711	<b>LEATHER ROLL CAGE COVERS</b> — Brand new \$25. 555-8109
<b>BRASS TONE HEADBOARD</b> — & bedframe \$20. 555 4783	<b>FUEL OIL TANK</b> — Inside, 275 gallon, \$25. 555 9604	<b>LESTOIL SPRAY FLOOR CLEANER</b> — \$12 a case 555 4707
<b>BRICK FLOWER BED EDGING</b> — \$1/ea rug braided. 555 6988	<b>GARAGE DOOR OPENER</b> — For parts \$7. 555 6911	<b>LIGHT FIXTURES</b> — Bath, dining, foyer, kitchen. Total of 8. \$5 \$20 ea. 555 7503
<b>BUSHINGS</b> — Polyurethane shock boot \$1.50. 555 8109	<b>GAS CAN</b> — 5 gallon \$10. call 555 3724	<b>LOCK</b> — Shalage entry brush aluminum \$12. 555 5434
<b>CAKE PLATE</b> — 50th anniv. gold trim Nu \$12. 555 8011	<b>GOLF CART</b> — Like new. \$20. Call after 3PM. 555 5507	<b>LONDON FOG COAT</b> — W/lining egg shell \$15. 555 5434
<b>CAN OPENER</b> — Rival under the counter \$5. 555 4707	<b>GOLF BAG</b> — & Irons 3, 2, 9, \$25. 555 7092	
<b>CEILING FAN</b> — New 52" white \$20. 555 6376	<b>GOLF BALLS</b> — \$2 dz. putters, sand wedge \$10. 555-3575	
<b>CHANGING TABLE</b> — \$10. potty \$3., vaporizer \$3. 555 2005		

**GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE**

\$25 and under	\$25 and under	\$26 to 100
MAPLE BOARDS — \$2. a Sq.Ft. 1"2"3". Call 555 1822	STORM DOOR — Screen 80 x 35 3/4, \$25. 555 1138	BIKE — 26 3 speed runs OK 1st \$50. after 3PM 555-7154
MECHANIC'S CREEPER — & Jack stands \$25. 555 6127	STREET HOCKEY NET — \$10 new in box. 555 1660	CAMARO THM350 MALIBU — THM 350 \$75. 555 2135 lv. msg.
MEDICINE CABINET — \$5. Call 555-0572	TABLE — Wrought Iron round 38", \$25. 555 8380	CHAIR — Stratlounge excel. cond., \$75. 555-5434
MINI BLINDS — Shade white 60W \$15. Call 555 8640	TALL END TABLE — lamp & shade \$15. 555 0750	COLOR TV'S — 2. 15" and 17". \$80 and \$90. Call anytime. 555 6373
MOTOR FURNACE — 1/4H.P. A 1 Delco \$20. 555 1138	TENT — 9x9 umbrella exc. cond., \$25 555-2674	DRAFTING TABLE — Lamp & chair \$60. 555 9389
MOWER — Push type 18 Craftsman \$20. Good cond. 555 0958	TIRES — P235/75R15 on GM rims \$20/ea. 555-6296	EXERCISE BIKE — White, lk. new, \$65. Call Michael 555 2503
NEW DOORS — Prhng. & blrd \$25. Also new locks \$3.50 555 0572	TIRES — On rims Ford Ranger pair \$25. 555 3432	FORD C-4 AUTO TRANS — \$75. Call 555 0140
PAINTERS TOOLS — Work bag & clothes. \$1 \$5/ea. Call 555 7503	TRAILER HITCH — \$20/bo. Call 555 5038	GAS STOVE — 30" glass door, good cond. \$100. 555 0958
PATIO TILE — In/out 6x6 new terra cotta 2lc. 555 1544	TRX CYCLE — For child old \$20. 555 5038 good.	GOLF CLUB SET — Irons, woods, bag, \$85. 555 7258
PING PONG TABLE — Official size V. good, \$25. 555 4987	TYPEWRITERS — Elec, manual \$10. & \$5. port. Singer sew. mach. \$15. 555 0219	GRATEFUL DEAD TICKETS — {6} great seats \$65/ea. 555 1377
PLAYPEN — \$10. Please call 555 1915	VACUUM — Canister style, good \$25. 555 7456	HAYWARD EARTH FILTER — 3/4 hp. asking \$100. Call 555-5547
PORT. TV — BW 6" \$15, record player \$10/bo. 555 3575	VACUUM — Hoover Canister \$25. all attach. 555-8428	HEALTH MEMBERSHIP — Hamilton Fitness Club, \$100. Call 10-8 555-7223
ROLLER — 30" x 12" concrete filled, \$25. 555 6040	WARN WINCH FRONT BUMPER — Black \$25. 555-8109	LAWN MOWERS — \$25/up. A-1 cond. Call 555-9232
RUG RUNNER BRAIDED — Mauve 29" w x 11' L \$20. 555 4101	WATER LILLIES — Variety comanche \$15. 555 2569	LAWNMOWER — Lawnboy, 21" self prop. \$75. 555 5147
SALTON ELECTRIC WARMER SERVING CART — \$25. 555 4283	WINDOW FAN — 18" w/slides \$25. 555 2660	LAWNMOWER — 21" self prop. rear bag \$90. 555-8428
SCHWINN STINGRAY — \$20. ladies 26" \$25. 555 7456	WINDSHIELD — 71' 75' caddy CPE, \$25. 555 6296	MEN 12 SPD BIKE — \$55, brand new. Baby monitor, \$20. Wood high chair, \$25 555 1561
SCREWS — Black type 2" & 2 1/2" 13 lbs. \$25. 555 5434	<b>\$26 to \$100</b>	MOVING — Computer hutch, \$35. Call John in Lawrenceville. 555-8083
SEARS MOWERS — Mechanics special pair \$25. 555 3432	6 NEW CABLE REMOTES — For TKR box \$35/ea. 555 3950	MOWER — Gas 21 Briggs runs good \$55. 3-6PM 555 7154
SHEETMOSS — 1/2 box to line wire basket, \$13. 555 0234	AIR CONDITIONER CASEMENT WINDOW — \$100 firm. 555 5422	POSTAGE STAMP COLLECTION — Mostly U.S. \$50. 555-9505
SHORTS — 25 pair girls, some new sz. 12, \$15. 555 0627	BED — 4 poster maple \$50, cushion patio set, \$70. 555 8876	REDWOOD — 48" round table 3 benches, \$50. 555 0233
SILVERPLATE PLATTER — \$20. 8mm movie camera. 555 7456	BEDROOM FURN. — 1940's, waterfall col, wardrobe clos, dresser/ngtstnd, nds. refin, \$65. 555-7503	REFRIG — Washer, dryer-stove \$90/bo good. 555 0076
SKATES — In line roller like new \$20/bo. 555 6009	BIKE — Ladies Schwinn 10spd., 24", \$75. exc. cond. 555 9571	
SOFA BED — Sleeps {2} good \$25. After 6, 555 1159		



GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE

\$26 to 100	\$26 to 100	\$26 to 100
REFRIGERATOR – Good. cond. \$100. LIPTON MICROWAVE, \$50. 555-2640	SKIER ROWER – Good cond. \$80. Call 555-9581	TABLE & 4 CHAIRS – Glass & oak top, \$65. 555-9389
REFRIGERATOR – Large sideXside \$95. 555 3592	SMITH CORONA – Electronic typewriter, new \$75. 555 7384	TATUNG MONITOR – \$40. Call 555-5383
REMOTE PLANE – & all to fly \$100/bo Dennis. 555 1321	SOFA – \$100, Chair\$50, kitchen table \$10. 555-2152	TENT – 2 person yellow/teal canvas, no flr, but incl. 2 infl. matr, \$30. 555 7503
SEGA GENESIS GAMES – \$30 ea. Like new. Call Steve at 555-6153 afternoons &eves	SOFA – Chair ottoman, blue flowered, \$100. 555-3220	TYPEWRITER – Electric, \$40. Smith Corona 555 8428
	SOFABED – Like new, beige, blues, browns \$89. 555 6806	YAMAHA 500 DIRTBIKE – Not Running, \$100. Call 555-9332
	STEREO – HI FI Cabinet type, 8-track AM/FM, \$40. 555- 4987	

1. The Bargain Basement ads are divided into sections identified by the headings "\$25 and under" and "\$26 to \$100." Suggest another way that this information could be organized and what the advantages would be.

WO000925

*Another way this information can be organized is by Men's & Women's apparel, Sports and hobby equipment, machinery/mechanical parts. The advantages of this type of organizing it that it makes it easier for people to find specific things.*

(Misspelling and grammar reflect actual student response.)

2. Which three types of information are usually found in these classified ads?
- (A) Original cost, age of item, size of item
- (B) Item description, home address, phone number
- (C) Phone number, item description, cost of the item
- (D) Item condition, seller's name, time of day to call

WO000926


 GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE

3. It is possible to place a free ad in the Bargain Basement section. If you want to place a free ad, your items must be
- Ⓐ sold within five days
  - Ⓑ priced at \$25 or less
  - Ⓒ in good condition
  - Ⓓ inspected by the editor

WO000927

4. Suppose you want to buy a bicycle. Look at the ads for bicycles listed in the Bargain Basement section. Tell which advertised bicycle interests you the most. Explain how you used the information in the ads to make your selection.

WO001004

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5. Abbreviations in the ads are useful because they
- Ⓐ communicate information while saving space
  - Ⓑ allow for different interpretations
  - Ⓒ make each section more interesting
  - Ⓓ make the items within a section appear to be similar

WO000931

6. What is an acceptable way to place a \$1 Bargain Basement ad in this newspaper?
- Ⓐ Phone in the ad, pay by credit card.
  - Ⓑ Phone in the ad, pay by money order.
  - Ⓒ Mail the ad, pay by cash.
  - Ⓓ Mail the ad, pay by check.

WO000932

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8. Suggest a way to improve the ordering form for Bargain Basement classified ads.

WC000930

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9. What are three possible mistakes in writing an ad that could prevent it from being published?

WC000934

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## The Writing Assessment

The NAEP writing assessment measures three purposes of writing: narrative, informative, and persuasive. The narrative tasks comprise first-person and third-person fictional stories. The informative tasks comprise description, explanation, and analysis. The persuasive tasks comprise writing to convince, writing to construct an argument, and writing to refute a position.

Across the three purposes for writing, students are asked to respond in a variety of forms. These forms include essays, letters, reports, stories, and articles. Some tasks require students to write for a specified audience; for example, to a teacher, to a committee, or to a friend. Writing tasks in the 2006 assessment incorporate an array of stimulus materials, such as color photographs, comic strips, newspaper articles, and poems.

Each student participating in the assessment will receive one test booklet. At grade 12, students will receive two 25-minute writing tasks. All booklets contain a Planning Page, thus providing students with the opportunity to make notes and organize their ideas. In addition, all participating students are provided with a writing strategies brochure to remind them of various ways to plan and review their writing. For more information regarding the writing assessment framework please visit <http://nagb.org>.

### ***NAEP Writing Framework Distribution of Time to Be Spent on Tasks for Each Writing Purpose***

	<b>Grade 12</b>
Narrative	25%
Informative	35%
Persuasive	40%

## Writing Booklet Directions

Sections 1 and 2 each contain one writing assignment. You will have 25 minutes to complete each assignment.

In each section, read the page that tells you your writing assignment. Then go on to the planning page where you can make notes and plan what to write. Do not write your paper on the planning page. After the planning page, there are lined pages where you should write your paper.

The following example shows what these pages look like.

The diagram illustrates the layout of three pages in a writing booklet, arranged in a descending staircase pattern from right to left.


- Page 2:** A large rectangular box containing the text "Your assignment is to write about . . ." at the top and "Page 2" at the bottom.
- Page 3:** A rectangular box overlapping the right side of Page 2. It contains the heading "PLANNING PAGE" in italics, followed by the instruction "Using this page to make notes and organize your ideas. You may want to use suggestions from the *Ideas for Planning Your Writing* in the brochure to help you get started." Below this is the instruction "DO NOT WRITE YOUR RESPONSE ON THIS PAGE." and "Page 3" at the bottom.
- Page 4:** A rectangular box overlapping the right side of Page 3. It contains the instruction "BEGIN WRITING YOUR RESPONSE ON THIS PAGE" at the top, followed by several horizontal lines for writing, and "Page 4" at the bottom.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE

**Remember to start writing your papers on the lined pages that begin on page 4 of each section that has a writing assignment.**

For each assignment, you will probably need all of the 25 minutes to plan and write. Use as many lined pages as you need to write your paper. You may want to use ideas from the brochure you have been given to help you plan and review your paper.

If you finish before time is called, read your paper again and make any changes that you think will make it better.

Do not go past the  sign at the end of each section until you are told to do so.



## Grade 12 Sample Writing Prompts

### Writing Prompt 1 (with sample response) Informative: Save a Book

For *Save a Book*, students were asked to explain what book they would save by memorization if they lived in a society where reading was not allowed. Since any book could be chosen, a wide range of responses was acceptable. In this booklet we provide an example of an “Excellent” response.

A novel written in the 1950’s describes a world where people are not allowed to read books. A small group of people who want to save books memorize them, so that the books won’t be forgotten. For example, an old man who has memorized the novel *The Call of the Wild* helps a young boy memorize it by reciting the story to him. In this way, the book is saved for the future.

If you were told that you could save just one book for future generations, which book would you choose?

Write an essay in which you discuss which book you would choose to save for future generations and what it is about the book that makes it important to save. Be sure to discuss in detail why the book is important to you and why it would be important to future generations.

### Sample “Excellent” Response

“Excellent” responses were well developed throughout with sentence variety and good word choice. The “Excellent” response shown below, about Herman Hesse’s *Demian*, is well developed and has strong transitions. Well-chosen details and precise word choices support a sustained controlling idea: that teens can learn from the main character’s coming of age. The “Excellent” rating was given to 4 percent of the responses to this task.

## Sample "Excellent" Response

Creating a literary masterpiece is most likely every writer's dream. German writer Hermann Hesse did so when he wrote Demian, the story of one boy's coming of age.

Although this novel is not necessarily a blatant American classic, it does have many powerful traits and deserves to be read by any high schooler. In the sense of literary analysis, the novel is an excellent example of Jungian psychology, and serves to chronicle a boy named Emil Sinclair's individuation, or the process of finding out who he is. High school is a wonderful time of self-discovery, where teens bond with several groups of friends, try different foods, fashions, classes, and experiences, both good and bad. The end result in May of senior year is a mature and confident adult, ready to enter the next stage of life. Since Sinclair is going through much of what an average student might (troubles at school, falling in love) relating with

## Sample "Excellent" Response (Continued)

and learning from Sinclair is an important aspect of the novel. The novel speaks of two realms: the dark half and the good half, and Sinclair's early "loss of innocence" by stealing a few loaves from his mother. Many students feel disheartened by the sudden realization that they are no longer children, and long for the ignorant bliss of innocent childhood. Reading about Sinclair's journey through the good and bad realms prepares students for the imminent good and bad experiences in life, and provides them with a hope for the future: that such experiences will leave them a mature and well-rounded adult, full of wisdom and compassion.

**Sample “Excellent” Response (Continued)**

If one were to rid the world of books, Demian should be saved because of its profound impact on its readers. It is said that a book is a classic if people continue to read it decades after it is written. I see a classic as nothing more than a literary jewel, polished until society can gaze into it and see a perfect glimpse of itself.

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**Writing Prompt 2**  
**Persuasive: Music Labels**

Recently, the music industry started to put rating labels on record albums, compact discs, and tapes. These labels describe the content and language of the music. A local committee is considering a rating label law that would make it illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to buy recordings with negative ratings.

Write a letter to the committee telling whether or not you think that negative rating labels should be used to restrict teenagers from buying certain music. Give specific reasons to support your opinion.