

Total ELA Administration Time:
120 Minutes (3x per School Year)
Sp. Ed. Extended Time: +60 min (180 min),
+120 min (240 min)

TASK

1. **Read an anchor text** that introduces topic.
2. **Gather key details** about passage to support understanding.
3. **Read two additional sources** and **answer questions about each text** to learn more about topic.
4. **Synthesize** understandings into a writing that uses **textual evidence** from **multiple sources**.
5. **Write final essay** to show reading comprehension.

SAMPLE PASSAGE #1

Today you will read a biography of Abigail Adams, and then you will read two examples of correspondence between Abigail and her husband, John Adams, who served as President of the United States from 1797 to 1801. As you read these texts, you will gather information and answer questions that will help you understand John and Abigail Adams's relationship and opinions. When you are finished reading, you will write an analytical essay.

Read the biography of Abigail Smith Adams. Then answer the questions.

Abigail Smith Adams (1744-1818)
1220L (*Ind Rdg 1320L*)

1 Abigail Adams was more than just a First Lady. Adams was politically minded and often stood up for those who lacked power such as slaves, women, and the colonies.

2 Abigail Smith Adams was born in Massachusetts on November 11, 1744. She came from a prestigious family and was related to Thomas Sheppard and other Congregational ministers. Like other women of her era, she had no formal education, but was curious and worked hard to teach herself. She read any books that were available and became knowledgeable about a variety of subject matters most women never considered.

3 Abigail Smith married John Adams in 1764. He was a young Harvard graduate teaching school and trying to launch a career in law. She moved to her husband's farm in Braintree, south of Boston, and eventually had three sons and two daughters. John Adams spent a lot of time away from home, traveling for both his legal work and as a political revolutionary, and later, as a diplomat. Abigail Adams supported the revolution as fervently as John, and she arguably suffered more because of it. Several times, battles raged near her home, while he was safe in Philadelphia or in Europe. From the beginning, it was she who managed their farm and took care of business so that he could devote himself to politics.

4 Through his letters it is clear that he trusted his wife to take care of his business matters and admired her self-sufficiency. Although married women at this time had limited property rights, Abigail Adams began to refer to their property and other affairs as her own instead of "ours". She also made investment decisions that enhanced the family's prosperity - something that was not easily done during the turbulent

1780's and 1790's, when many wealthy men ended up in poverty.

5 John and Abigail Adams wrote letters to each other frequently. In these letters one can tell that they were close friends and often Adams advised her husband on matters of politics. In one of her most famous letters Abigail writes:

6 *"I long to hear that you have declared an independency - and by the way in the new Code of Laws which I suppose it will be necessary for you to make I desire you would remember the ladies, and be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors. Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the husbands. Remember all men would be tyrants if they could. If particular care and attention is not paid to the ladies we are determined to foment a rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice or representation."* (1)

7 Her husband did not take this letter seriously, so Adams wrote a letter to her friend Mercy Otis Warren. She asked Warren to petition Congress with her and request that Congress establish some laws that favor women. After Warren never replied, Adams wrote one more letter to her husband, and essentially all of Congress, pointing out discrepancies. In this letter she said, "whilst you are proclaiming peace and good will to men, emancipating all nations, you insist upon retaining an absolute power over wives." (2) Though John Adams did not take his wife's advice on this matter, there is evidence he considered the issue in relation to voter's rights as he forwarded her concerns on to Brigadier General Joseph Palmer.

8 Throughout his life John Adams continued to request his wife's advice and opinions on political matters. After he became president in 1797 John Adams was eager to have his wife at his side. He wrote, "I never wanted your Advice and assistance more in my life . . . The Times are critical and dangerous, and I must have you here to assist me." (3) As First Lady, Adams made a large impression on the public. She was an advocate for female and expressed original feminist theory, as well as insightful political thought.

9 After her husband lost his re-election in 1801, the couple retreated to their home in Quincy. While her main focus was on her family and home, Adams remained in correspondence with several political figures including President Thomas Jefferson - who had defeated her husband in a bitter election - and with Dolley Madison, who remained influential in Washington after the death of her husband, James Madison, the nations third President.

10 Abigail Adams died October 28, 1818. Her son, John Quincy Adams became president 6 years after she passed away. Her grandchild, Charles Francis Adams published many of Adams' letters in 1848.

<http://www.nwhm.org/education-resources/biography/biographies/abigail-smith-adams/>

SAMPLE PASSAGE #2

Now read a letter Abigail Adams wrote to her husband. The answer the questions.

Abigail Adams

Braintree

March 31, 1776

1130L (*Ind Rdg 1230L*)

1 I wish you would ever write me a letter half as long as I write you, and tell me, if you may, where your fleet are gone; what sort of defense Virginia can make against our common enemy; whether it is so situated as to make an able defense. Are not the gentry lords, and the common people vassals? Are they not like the uncivilized vassals Britain represents us to be? I hope their riflemen, who have shown themselves very savage and even blood-thirsty, are not a specimen of the generality of the people. I am willing to allow the colony great merit for having produced a Washington - but they have been shamefully duped by a Dunmore.

2 I have sometimes been ready to think that the passion for liberty cannot be equally strong in the breasts of those who have been accustomed to deprive their fellow-creatures of theirs. Of this I am certain, that it is not founded upon that generous and Christian principle of doing to others as we would that others should do unto us.

3 Do not you want to see Boston? I am fearful of the small-pox, or I should have been in before this time. I got Mr. Crane to go to our house and see what state it was in. I find it has been occupied by one of the doctors of a regiment; very dirty, but no other damage has been done to it. The few things which were left in it are all

gone. I look upon it as a new acquisition of property - a property which one month ago I did not value at a single shilling, and would with pleasure have seen it in flames.

4 The town in general is left in a better state than we expected; more owing to a precipitate flight than any regard to the inhabitants; though some individuals discovered a sense of honor and justice, and have left the rent of the houses in which they were, for the owners, and the furniture unhurt, or, if damaged, sufficient to make it good. Others have committed abominable ravages. The mansion house of your President is safe, and the furniture unhurt while the house and furniture of the Solicitor General have fallen a prey to their own merciless party. Surely the very fiends feel a reverential awe for virtue and patriotism, whilst they detest the parricide and traitor.

5 I feel very differently at the approach of spring from what I did a month ago. We knew not then whether we could plant or sow with safety, whether where we had tilled we could reap the fruits of our own industry, whether we could rest in our own cottages or whether we should be driven from the seacoast to seek shelter in the wilderness but now we feel a temporary peace, and the poor fugitives are returning to their deserted habitations.

6 Though we felicitate ourselves, we sympathize with those who are trembling lest the lot of Boston should be theirs. But they cannot be in similar circumstances unless pusillanimity and cowardice should take possession of them. They have time and warning given them to see the evil and shun it.

7 I long to hear that you have declared an independency. And, by the way, in the new code of laws which I suppose it will be necessary for you to make, I desire you would remember the ladies and be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors. Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the husbands. Remember, all men would be tyrants if they could. If particular care and attention is not paid to the ladies, we are determined to foment a rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice or representation.

8 That your sex are naturally tyrannical is a truth so thoroughly established as to admit of no dispute; but such of you as wish to be happy willingly give up the harsh title of master for the more tender and endearing one of friend. Why, then, not put it out of the power of the vicious and the lawless to use us with cruelty and indignity with impunity? Men of sense in all ages abhor those customs which treat us only as the vassals of your sex; regard us then as beings placed by Providence under your protection, and in imitation of the Supreme Being make use of that power only for our happiness.

9 I want to hear much oftener from you than I do. March 8th was the last date of any that I have yet had. You inquire of me whether I am making saltpetre. I have not yet attempted it, but after soap-making believe I shall make the experiment. I find as much as I can do to manufacture clothing for my family, which would else be naked. I know of but one person in this part of the town who has made any. That is Mr. Tertius Bass, as he is called, who has got very near a hundred-weight which has been found to be very good. I have heard of some others in the other

parishes. Mr. Reed, of Weymouth, has been applied to, to go to Andover to the mills which are now at work, and he has gone.

10 I have lately seen a small manuscript describing the proportions of the various sorts of powder fit for cannon, small arms, and pistols. If it would be of any service your way I will get it transcribed and send it to you. Every one your friends sends regards, and all the little ones. Adieu.

“Letter to John Adams” – Public Domain

SAMPLE PASSAGE #3

Read the following letter from John Adams to his wife Abigail. Then answer the questions.

To Abigail Adams

John Adams

July 03, 1776

1370L (*Ind Rdg 1470L*)

1 Yesterday, the greatest question was decided, which ever was debated in America, and a greater, perhaps, never was nor will be decided among men. A resolution was passed without one dissenting colony, "that these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, and as such they have, and of right ought to have, full power to make war, conclude peace, establish commerce, and to do all other acts and things which other States may rightfully do." You will see in a few days a Declaration setting forth the causes which have impelled us to this mighty revolution, and the reasons which will justify it in the sight of God and man. A plan of confederation will be taken up in a few days.

2 When I look back to the year 1761, and recollect the argument concerning writs of assistance in the superior court, which I have hitherto considered as the commencement of this controversy between Great Britain and America, and run through the whole period, from that time to this, and recollect the series of political events, the chain of causes and effects, I am surprised at the suddenness as well as greatness of this revolution. Britain has been filled with folly, and America with wisdom. At least, this is my judgment. Time must determine. It is the

will of Heaven that the two countries should be sundered forever. It may be the will of Heaven that America shall suffer calamities still more wasting, and distresses yet more dreadful. If this is to be the case, it will have the good effect at least. It will inspire us with many virtues, which we have not, and correct many errors, follies and vices which duces refinement, in States as well as individuals. And the new governments we are assuming in every part will require a purification from our vices, and an augmentation of our virtues, or they will be no blessings. The people will have unbounded power, and the people are extremely addicted to corruption and venality, as well as the great. But I must submit all my hopes and fears to an overruling Providence, in which, unfashionable as the faith may be, I firmly believe.

3 Had a declaration of Independency been made seven months ago, it would have been attended with many great and glorious effects. We might, before this hour, have formed alliances with foreign States . . .

4 But, on the other hand, the delay of this declaration to this time has many great advantages attending it. The hopes of reconciliation, which were fondly entertained by multitudes of honest and well-meaning, though weak and mistaken people, have been gradually and, at last, totally extinguished. Time has been given for the whole people maturely to consider the great question of independence, and to ripen their judgment, dissipate their fears, and allure their hopes, by discussing it in newspapers and pamphlets, by debating it in assemblies, conventions, committees of safety and inspection, in town and county meetings,

as well as in private conversations, so that the whole people, in every colony of the thirteen, have now adopted it as their own act. This will cement the union, and avoid those heats, and perhaps convulsions which might have been occasioned by such a declaration six months ago.

5 But the day is past. The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epocha in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated, as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward, forevermore.

6 You will think me transported with enthusiasm, but I am not. I am well aware of the toil, and blood, and treasure, that it will cost us to maintain this declaration, and support and defend these States. Yet, through all the gloom, I can see the rays of ravishing light and glory. I can see that the end is more than worth all the means, and that posterity will triumph in that day's transaction, even although we should rue it, which I trust in God we shall not.

"Letter to Abigail Adams" – Public Domain

SAMPLE ITEM #1

Part A Question 1020L (Ind Rdg 1120L): In paragraph 8 of “Abigail Smith Adams,” Abigail Adams is called an “advocate for females.” What is the meaning of **advocate for females** as used in this paragraph?

- a. promoter of women’s rights
- b. counselor for women who lack rights
- c. revolutionary demanding women’s control of government
- d. campaigner for women running for political office

Part B Question 1540L (Ind Rdg 1640L): Which of Abigail Adam’s actions described in the biography **best** shows her being an **advocate**?

- a. “She read any books that were available and became knowledgeable about a variety of subject matters most women never considered.”
- b. “Abigail Adams supported the revolution as fervently as John, and she arguably suffered more because of it.
- c. She asked Warren to petition Congress with her and request that Congress establish some laws that favor women.”
- d. “While her main focus was on her family and home, Adams remained in correspondence with several political figures...”

SAMPLE ITEM #2

Part A Question 730L (Ind Rdg 830L): Which question below is left unanswered by the biography “Abigail Smith Adams” because insufficient evidence is provided?

- a. Why did John Adams suffer less from the war than Abigail Adams did?
- b. Why did Abigail Adams write a letter to Mercy Otis Warren?
- c. Why did Abigail Adams ask John Adams to “remember the ladies” when creating the new nation?
- d. Why did John Adams fail to respond to Abigail Adams’ pleas for better treatment of women?

Part B Question 1920L (Ind Rdg 2020L): Which statement is true about the biography and best supports the answer to Part A?

- a. The biography indicates that John Adams was often in a safer location than Abigail Adams was but never explains why she was in danger.
- b. The biography indicates that John Adams respected his wife’s opinions but never explains why he agreed or disagreed with her.
- c. The biography indicates that Abigail Adams corresponded with other women but never explains why she wrote the letters.
- d. The biography indicates that Abigail Adams wanted her husband to think about the treatment of women but never explains why she thought changes should be made.

SAMPLE ITEM #3

Part A Question 2140L (Ind Rdg 2240L): Which statement accurately describes the relationship between two central ideas in the biography “Abigail Smith Adams”?

- Abigail Adams had a significant amount of political influence for a woman of her time, and she used her influence in several ways, including trying to gain rights for women.
- Abigail Adams was given many opportunities to prove that women could handle the same tasks as men, and she studied a wide range of topics so that she could show that women could also be educated.
- John Adams loved and respected his wife, and the letters they wrote each other are important because they show how a typical family was able to survive during the Revolutionary War.
- President John Adams often called upon his wife Abigail for counsel on personal and political issues, and he encouraged her to help him determine his policy on women’s rights.

Part B Question 1070L (Ind Rdg 1170L): Which **two** sentences from “Abigail Smith Adams” **best** support the answer to Part A?

- “She read any books that were available and became knowledgeable about a variety of subject matters most women never considered.” (*paragraph 2*)
- “From the beginning, it was she who managed their farm and took care of business so that he could devote himself to politics.” (*paragraph 3*)
- “Through his letters it is clear that he trusted his wife to take care of his business matters and admired her self-sufficiency.” (*paragraph 4*)
- “...Abigail Adams began to refer to their property and other affairs as her own instead of ‘ours.’” (*paragraph 4*)
- “In these letters one can tell that they were close friends and often Adams advised her husband on matters of politics.” (*paragraph 5*)
- “She was an advocate for females and expressed original feminist theory, as well as insightful political thought.” (*paragraph 8*)

SAMPLE ITEM #4

Part A Question 1130L (Ind Rdg 1230L): In paragraph 7 of the letter to her husband, Abigail Adams states that “all men would be tyrants” and in paragraph 8 she states that men are “naturally tyrannical.” Which statement defines the word **tyrannical** correctly using the context of the letter?

- Tyrannical can be defined as formal and ceremonious, as indicated by the words “laws which I suppose it will be necessary for you to make.” (*paragraph 7*)
- Tyrannical can be defined as considerate and nurturing, as indicated by the words “more generous and favorable.” (*paragraph 7*)
- Tyrannical can be defined as overbearing and oppressive, as indicated by the words “cruelty and indignity with impunity.” (*paragraph 8*)
- Tyrannical can be defined as vigilant and possessive, as indicated by the words “under your protection.” (*paragraph 8*)

Part B Question 1660L (Ind Rdg 1760L): Why does Abigail Adams **most** likely use this specific language about men?

- a. to show that she believes her husband likely will not be able to convince lawmakers to include rights for women as part of the fight for independence
- b. to emphasize that men have an obligation to ensure rights for women as dictated by a Supreme Being
- c. to indicate that she is grateful that John Adams is fighting for independence from a government that she believes treats people, especially women, unfairly
- d. to point out the similarities between the Colonies' fight for freedom from unjust domination and women's fight for freedom from unjust domination

SAMPLE ITEM #5

Part A Question 2040L (Ind Rdg 2140L): How does paragraph 2 of Abigail Adam's letter to her husband **most strongly** contribute to the text as a whole?

- a. It introduces Abigail's main argument for independence, which is discussed more thoroughly in later paragraphs.
- b. It identifies the religious principles Abigail believes the Colonies are fighting for, which are discussed more thoroughly in later paragraphs.
- c. It establishes Abigail's belief that the colonies are losing the fight for independence because those fighting do not truly understand the importance of winning, which is discussed more thoroughly in later paragraphs.
- d. It demonstrates that Abigail is certain that the Colonies will be a strong country if they win the war, which is discussed more thoroughly in later paragraphs.

Part B Question 1000L (Ind Rdg 1100L): In which **two** paragraphs of the letter are the ideas in paragraph 2 discussed more thoroughly?

- a. paragraph 3
- b. paragraph 4
- c. paragraph 5
- d. paragraph 6
- e. paragraph 7
- f. paragraph 8

SAMPLE ITEM #6

Part A Question 2040L (Ind Rdg 2140L): Which **two** statements **best** summarize Abigail's ideas regarding the occupation of Boston, based on the letter to her husband?

- a. Disease wiped out many of the residents of Boston during the occupation of their town.
- b. Many of the homes that were occupied in Boston were left in better condition than expected.
- c. It is likely that another town in the Colonies will be similarly occupied in the near future.

- d. Only the president's and solicitor general's homes were left unharmed by those who occupied Boston.
- e. The people of Boston do not know whether or not they should return to their homes.
- f. As long as citizens of other towns take steps to avoid what led to the occupation in Boston, they should be safe from a similar fate.

Part B Question 1210L (Ind Rdg 1310L): Choose **two** quotations that **best** support the answers in Part A.

- a. "I am fearful of the small-pox, or I should have been in before this time." (*paragraph 3*)
- b. "I find it has been occupied by one of the doctors of a regiment..." (*paragraph 3*)
- c. "...some individuals discovered a sense of honor and justice, and have left rent of houses in which they were, for the owners, and the furniture unhurt, or, if damaged, sufficient to make it good." (*paragraph 4*)
- d. "...whether we could rest in our own cottages or whether we should be driven from the seacoast to seek shelter in the wilderness..." (*paragraph 5*)
- e. "Though we felicitate ourselves, we sympathize with those who are trembling lest the lot of Boston should be theirs." (*paragraph 6*)
- f. "They have time and warning given them to see the evil and shun it." (*paragraph 6*)

SAMPLE ITEM #7

Part A Question 1770L (Ind Rdg 1870L): In his letter, John Adams tells his wife that "through all the gloom, I can see the rays of ravishing light and glory." Which paraphrase explains what Adams means by this statement?

- a) Although I see the gloom (the announcement of independence), I also see the light and glory (the fighting we will have to do against Great Britain).
- b) Although I see the gloom (the war we must continue to fight), I also see the light and glory (the complete independence of our new country from Great Britain).
- c) Although I see the gloom (the disgrace of declaring independence from Great Britain), I also see the light and glory (the many causes of the revolution).
- d) Although I see the gloom (the hope with which independence from Great Britain was declared), I also see the light and glory (the approval of future generations).

Part B Question 1240L (Ind Rdg 1340L): Which quotation from the text best reflects the meaning of "through all the gloom, I can see the rays of ravishing light and glory"?

- a) "You will see in a few days a Declaration setting forth the causes which have impelled us to this mighty revolution, which will justify it..." (*paragraph 1*)
- b) "...I am surprised at the suddenness as well as greatness of this revolution." (*paragraph 2*)
- c) "It is the will of Heaven that the two countries should be sundered forever. It may be the will of Heaven that America shall suffer calamities still more wasting, and distresses yet more dreadful." (*paragraph 2*)
- d) "I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival." (*paragraph 5*)

SAMPLE ITEM #8

Part A Question 1780L (Ind Rdg 1880L): What claim does President Adams make about the timing of the declaration of Independency”?

- a) The declaration should have been made several months earlier, as many months of hardship were endured for no reason.
- b) The declaration is being made prematurely because the Colonies are not prepared for the consequences.
- c) The delay of the declaration actually worked out well, as it allowed the colonists to truly unite behind one idea.
- d) The delay of the declaration was unnecessary and can be contributed to a lack of understanding on the art of the colonists.

Part B Question 1150L (Ind Rdg 1250L): Which excerpt from the text **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- a) “We might, before this hour, have formed alliances with foreign States...” (paragraph 3)
- b) “Time has been given for the whole people maturely to consider the great question of independence, and to ripen their judgment, dissipate their fears, and allure their hopes...” (paragraph 4)
- c) “...by debating it in assemblies, conventions, committees of safety and inspection, in town and county meetings,...” (paragraph 4)
- d) “I am well aware of the toil, and blood, and treasure, that it will cost us to maintain this declaration, and support and defend these states.” (paragraph 6)

SAMPLE ITEM #9

Part A Question 1230L (Ind Rdg 1330L): Select the claim that both Abigail and Adams make in their letters and drag it into the box labeled “CLAIM.”

	CLAIM
1. Providence determines which side will win in a conflict.	
2. It is human nature that people who have control will tend to turn toward bad behavior rather than good behavior.	
3. All people, regardless of gender or position, should have their rights protected.	
4. People who have oppressed others are less likely to desire freedom than those who have not oppressed others.	

Part B Question 1190L (Ind Rdg 1290L):

Quotations from Abigail’s Letter to John Adams	Quotations from John’s Letter to Abigail Adams
1. “Of this I am certain, that it is not founded upon that generous and Christian principle of doing to others as we would that others should do unto us.” <i>(paragraph 2)</i>	5. “It is the will of Heaven that the two countries should be sundered forever.” <i>(paragraph 2)</i>
2. “...in the new code of laws which I suppose it will be necessary for you to make, I desire you would remember the ladies...” <i>(paragraph 7)</i>	6. “The people will have unbounded power, and the people are extremely addicted to corruption and venality...” <i>(paragraph 2)</i>
3. “Remember, all men would be tyrants if they could.” <i>(paragraph 7)</i>	7. “Time has been given for the whole people maturely to consider the great question of independence...” <i>(paragraph 4)</i>
4. “...regard us then as beings placed by Providence under your protection...” <i>(paragraph 8)</i>	8. “This will cement the union, and avoid those heats...which might have been occasioned by such a declaration six months ago.” <i>(paragraph 4)</i>
Evidence from John Adam’s Letter	Evidence from Abigail Adam’s Letter

SAMPLE ITEM #10

Writing Prompt 1130L (Ind Rdg 1230L): Both John and Abigail Adams believed strongly in freedom and independence. However, their letters suggest that each of them understood these terms differently based on their experiences.

Write an essay that explains their contrasting views on the concepts of freedom and independence. In your essay, make a claim about the idea of freedom and independence and how John and Abigail Adams add to that understanding and/or illustrate a misunderstanding of freedom and independence. Support your response with textual evidence and inferences drawn from all three sources.

<https://www.parcconline.org/samples/english-language-artsliteracy/grade-11-elaliteracy>

KEY

SAMPLE ITEM #1

Part A Question - A

Part B Question - C

SAMPLE ITEM #2

Part A Question - D

Part B Question - B

SAMPLE ITEM #3

Part A Question - A

Part B Question - E, F

SAMPLE ITEM #4

Part A Question - C

Part B Question - D

SAMPLE ITEM #5

Part A Question - A

Part B Question - E, F

SAMPLE ITEM #6

Part A Question - B, F

Part B Question - C, F

SAMPLE ITEM #7

Part A Question - B

Part B Question - C

SAMPLE ITEM #8

Part A Question - C

Part B Question - B

SAMPLE ITEM #9

Part A Question - 2

Part B Question - 3, 6