ELA Passage Selection for Grades 3-12

What to consider when selecting passages for instruction and assessment

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Ideally, selected texts for students in Grades 3-12 should be...

- developmentally/grade appropriate in both complexity and content
- fair and unbiased for students
- representative of various genres, literary styles and cultures
- able to address a wide variety of learning standards
- worthy of reading
- rich in literary elements and strategies for analysis
When selecting for classroom use, teachers can use passages that...

- may require some scaffolding or background knowledge
- address student interests and meet learning objectives
- will support cross-curricular or inter-disciplinary learning
- may only be of local interest
When selecting passages for NYS ELA assessments, there are other considerations. Passages must...

- meet established criteria for length (word count)
- vary in complexity within established grade bands
- be appropriate and likely of interest to students across the entire state
Passages must...

- be suitable for item development
- be information rich and demonstrate exemplary writing skill
- represent a variety of eras, genres, topics, styles, and cultures
What does passage selection look like in practice?

On your table, you will find copies of passages from Grades 4, 6, and 8 and high school that were used on NYS ELA assessments. Choose one grade you would like to review.

Take 5 minutes to read the texts for your grade, considering the information that was just shared with you.

- Do the passages represent different genres and styles?
- Are the passages interesting and accessible to a wide variety of students?
- Can the passages be used to assess several learning standards?

Take a minute to discuss with your colleagues how your classroom practice may change as a result of today’s presentation.
We value your opinions and feedback!  
https://www.research.net/r/passageselect

If you would like to participate in the test development process visit us at: http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/teacher/home.html

For additional questions about NYS assessments, please email emscassessinfo@nysed.gov