

Supporting Rigorous English Language Arts Teaching and Learning

TCAP ELA PHASE I WRITING TASK

STUDENT PACKET – Tasks

Tennessee Department of Education
English Language Arts
Grades 11–12

ELA Phase I Writing Task Introduction

Intelligence is an elusive concept. Researchers have long studied the concept of intelligence, focusing their attentions on questions, such as: What is it? Can it be measured, and if so, how? What does it mean to be smart? Can we get smarter? What influences our intelligence? During this assessment, you will read two texts that delineate two perspectives about the concept of intelligence.

ELA Phase I Writing Task Texts

Two texts will be used with this set of writing tasks. The print texts are included in the accompanying text packet:

- Text 1: “The Secret to Raising Smart Kids” by Carol S. Dweck
- Text 2: “It’s Not Me, It’s You” by Annie Murphy Paul

ELA Phase I Writing Tasks

Two writing tasks have been provided:

- Analytic summary of Text 1
- Analysis of Texts 1 and 2

1. Analytic Summary

Please read “The Secret to Raising Smart Kids” by Carol S. Dweck.¹ Dweck is a professor of psychology at Stanford University. In this text, she develops several central ideas.

After you have read, determine two central ideas from the text and write an essay that both summarizes and analyzes how these central ideas are developed, including how they interact and build on one another over the course of the text. Cite strong and thorough evidence from the text to support your analysis. Follow the conventions of standard written English. Write your essay in the space provided on the next pages.

You may use this area for notes ONLY. Use the lined pages to write your essay.

¹ Dweck, C.S. (2007). “The secret to raising smart kids.” Reproduced with permission. Copyright © 2008 Scientific American, Inc. All rights reserved.

2. Analysis

Please read “It’s Not Me, It’s You” by Annie Murphy Paul.² Paul is a journalist and author who writes about the biological and social sciences.

After you have read the text, write an essay that analyzes how Dweck and Paul each use and refine the meaning of the term *intelligence* over the course of their articles. Be sure to also discuss the similarities and differences between their definitions. Cite strong and thorough evidence from both texts to support your analysis. Follow the conventions of standard written English. Write your essay in the space provided in the next pages.

You may use this area for notes ONLY. Use the lined pages to write your essay.

² Paul, A.M. “It’s not me, it’s you.” From *The New York Times*, 10/7/2012 © 2012 *The New York Times*. All rights reserved. Used by permission and protected by the Copyright Laws of the United States. The printing, copying, redistribution, or retransmission of this Content without express written permission is prohibited.

