

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 8 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
1	Option D is correct	Chanute’s interest in the task of developing a flying machine is evident in this sentence. The author includes the words “tremendous task” and “teamwork” to describe Chanute’s dedication to accomplishing flight alongside colleagues.
	Option A is incorrect	Although this sentence includes the idea that Chanute was inspirational within the field of aviation, the author is not presenting Chanute’s interest in the development of a flying machine as greater than his interest in gaining public recognition.
	Option B is incorrect	Chanute is shown as a student of aviation in this sentence, but there is no mention of why he collected and studied these materials.
	Option C is incorrect	There is not enough information in this sentence for the reader to infer Chanute’s reason for giving speeches, keeping a diary, and recording the results of his experiments.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 8 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
2	Option B is correct	The author’s use of the word <u>immersed</u> in paragraph 4 to describe Chanute’s engagement with the field of aviation closely aligns with the meaning of the root <i>immersus</i> , as Chanute plunged into or submerged himself in learning about aviation.
	Option A is incorrect	The author does not use the word <u>immersed</u> in paragraph 4 in a manner that aligns with this meaning. Chanute is not described as spending time relaxing while studying aviation.
	Option C is incorrect	Starting in paragraph 6, the author does refer to Chanute as collaborating with colleagues; however, in paragraph 4, there is no context to support “asked for advice” as the meaning of <u>immersed</u> .
	Option D is incorrect	In paragraph 8, the author says that Chanute developed new designs; however, the root of the word <u>immerse</u> and the context of the paragraph do not support “developed new designs” as the meaning of <u>immersed</u> in paragraph 4.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 8 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
3	Option D is correct	This paragraph is an accurate paraphrasing of all the key details in paragraph 7, including the common use of “model airplanes” and Lilienthal’s belief that “full-scale, man-carrying gliders” would be needed to mastery of aviation.
	Option A is incorrect	This paragraph does not include two key details of paragraph 7: model airplanes were commonly used, and Lilienthal believed that he should experiment with “full-scale, man-carrying gliders.”
	Option B is incorrect	The author introduces Chanute and Lilienthal’s collaboration in paragraph 8, not paragraph 7, so it does not belong in a paraphrase of that paragraph.
	Option C is incorrect	The idea that Lilienthal and Chanute were already using passenger-carrying gliders is not presented in paragraph 7. Paragraph 7 is about how Lilienthal believed that it would be better to test passenger-carrying gliders than model airplanes.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 8 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
4	Option A is correct	The author uses chronology to support the thesis, or central idea, that Chanute shaped the progress of aviation. Throughout paragraphs 5 through 11, the author organizes information chronologically, using specific dates and events to describe Chanute’s experiences with aviation.
	Option B is incorrect	Paragraphs 5 through 11 include the accomplishments of Chanute and other aviators; however, these accomplishments are not ranked, nor are they in order of importance.
	Option C is incorrect	The author includes the idea that Chanute solved problems relating to aviation mechanics; however, there is no explanation of solutions in paragraphs 5 through 11.
	Option D is incorrect	In paragraph 4, the author shares that Chanute was a civil engineer and then shares that he shifted his energies to aviation after retirement. However, in paragraphs 5 through 11, the author does not compare Chanute’s early work to his work later in life.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 8 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
5	Option C is correct	From the context in the selection, the reader may conclude that Chanute was involved in the early stages of aviation. In paragraph 1, the author notes that the Wrights were the first to fly with power and control; in paragraph 4, aviation is called a “new science”; in paragraph 3, the author suggests that Chanute be called “the Father of Aviation.”
	Option A is incorrect	Chanute was an engineer (paragraph 4), but the Wright brothers were bicycle makers (paragraph 1).
	Option B is incorrect	Although the author does note that many experimenters kept their findings private, there is no context to support the conclusion that this was because experimenters hoped to turn a profit.
	Option D is incorrect	In paragraph 6, the author states that Chanute corresponded about aviation with researchers from all over the world, but there is no information in the selection that clarifies the popularity of the field in any specific country.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 8 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
6	Option B is correct	In paragraph 11, the author shares that Chanute visited the Wrights, commended their efforts to a friend, and congratulated them on their success. Based on that information, the reader can infer that Chanute was committed to supporting others in his field.
	Option A is incorrect	Concerns about the rate of progress are not included in paragraph 11.
	Option C is incorrect	Chanute shared that the Wrights' machine was "the most promising attempt at flight that [had] yet been made" (paragraph 11); however, the reader does not have enough information to infer that Chanute realized that they had made more progress in the field than he had.
	Option D is incorrect	There is no context in paragraph 11 to support the inference that the Wright brothers were more deserving of support than other aviators.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 8 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
7	Option B is correct	In paragraph 1, the author states that the Wright brothers were not the first to fly, or even to attempt flying; also, the questions posed at the end of the paragraph are used to build interest in less-well-known pioneers in aviation, which contributes to the controlling idea of success being the result of collaboration.
	Option A is incorrect	The controlling idea that successes in aviation were due to collaboration is not supported by the idea that it is important to learn more about aviation history from people and events of the past.
	Option C is incorrect	In paragraph 1, the author explains that the Wright brothers “added power and control to flight,” which led them to succeed where others had failed. This idea does not support the controlling idea that successes in aviation were due to collaboration.
	Option D is incorrect	Although there were many successes and failures on the path to innovation, the author’s highlighting of those events does not support the controlling idea.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 8 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
8	Option A is correct	The photograph shows one of the passenger-carrying gliders that the author discusses in paragraphs 7 and 8.
	Option B is incorrect	A single photograph depicts the weather at the time it was taken but does not indicate different weather conditions.
	Option C is incorrect	The still photograph is not sufficient evidence for the idea that multiple test flights were staged during a specific time span.
	Option D is incorrect	Although Chanute might have taken advice from his assistants when designing the glider, this is not conveyed by the photograph in the selection.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 8 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
9	Option B is correct	The author’s use of the word <i>permit</i> in the sentence helps the reader determine the meaning of <u>discretion</u> , because federal judges have the choice to <u>permit</u> , or allow coverage.
	Option A is incorrect	The courts are not the subject of the sentence, and therefore, the word <i>courts</i> does not help the reader understand the meaning of <u>discretion</u> .
	Option C is incorrect	Although judges have the discretion to permit coverage, the word <i>coverage</i> does not aid the reader in determining the meaning of <u>discretion</u> .
	Option D is incorrect	The word <i>safeguarding</i> does not help the reader determine the meaning of <u>discretion</u> .

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 8 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale
10	For SCR items, please refer to the scoring guide.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 8 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
11	Option A is correct	Tone is the way in which the author expresses his or her attitude through the writing. The author shows a serious tone in paragraph 1 by quoting Justice Elena Kagan’s concern that cameras in the courtroom could come at the “expense” of “the way the institution functioned.”
	Option B is incorrect	Although people who want cameras in the courtroom may appreciate the media, there is no textual evidence to support a tone of gratitude in paragraph 1.
	Option C is incorrect	The author states that the debate about cameras in the courtroom is long and ongoing and that cameras are not currently allowed in most courts, but the author does not include any details about the public’s reaction to the bans.
	Option D is incorrect	The author does not convey through the tone in paragraph 1 that people feel a sense of nostalgia.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 8 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
12	Option B is correct	In paragraph 3, the author recognizes the counterargument that not all challenges to current norms are better in every way and uses the example of physical books and e-readers to support that counterargument.
	Option A is incorrect	Chisholm challenged the status quo. The author uses her as an example in paragraph 2 to support the argument, not to serve as a counterargument.
	Option C is incorrect	The author does not use this example to support a counterargument.
	Option D is incorrect	The author uses the fact that changes to the Constitution are allowable to support the argument, not to serve as a counterargument.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 8 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
13	Option D is correct	This summary includes all the major points and ideas from the article. The summary includes the meaning of status quo as “how things are” and explains the key idea that old ways may be more comfortable but that challenging the status quo leads to new possibilities.
	Option A is incorrect	Although this summary includes some of the author’s main points, the notion that preserving old ways is a priority does not appear in the article.
	Option B is incorrect	The idea that challenging the status quo is important is not included in this summary; therefore, the summary is incomplete.
	Option C is incorrect	This summary is incomplete because it includes information only about two well-known change makers. The author’s discussion of the status quo and inclusion of a counterargument are missing from this summary.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 8 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
14	Option C is correct	Following the generalization in the sentence “People find comfort in routine and familiarity,” the author points out why staying in routine and comfort can be damaging. The author includes the generalization most likely to acknowledge that change can be difficult.
	Option A is incorrect	Later in paragraph 1, the author states that change is “inevitable”; however, the generalization is included most likely to identify that people often struggle with change.
	Option B is incorrect	The author does not use the generalization in paragraph 1 to support the idea that change is customary for most people.
	Option D is incorrect	The author does not include the generalization to suggest that change puts people at ease. This generalization is the opposite of the main idea of the article.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 8 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
15	Option C is correct	The author wrote the article most likely to encourage the reader to be more open to change and progress. In paragraph 1, the author points out that change is inevitable; in paragraphs 2 through 4, the author gives various examples to support the idea that change is often positive for society.
	Option A is incorrect	Although the idea that routine can stand in the way of progress is included in the article, the author’s most likely purpose is to prompt the reader to embrace change, as opposed to identifying obstacles to change.
	Option B is incorrect	The author does not urge the reader to make changes in her or his own life but rather urges the reader to help challenge the status quo on a societal level.
	Option D is incorrect	The author does not include an explanation of the ways in which technological changes have improved daily life.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 8 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
16	Option B is correct	Juxtaposition is the placement of two things side by side to reveal a contrast. The two authors differ in their use of juxtaposition. In "Cameras in the Courtroom," the author shows that cameras are commonly used everywhere except in federal courts. The author of "Challenging the Status Quo" uses juxtaposition to invalidate the superiority of an older practice, in contrast to the consistent improvement achieved through new practices.
	Option A is incorrect	The authors of the selections do not use juxtaposition to express either disappointment or approval.
	Option C is incorrect	The author of "Cameras in the Courtroom" does not use juxtaposition to express approval. The author of "Challenging the Status Quo" is commenting on an older practice; the author is not using juxtaposition to support a traditional approach.
	Option D is incorrect	The author of "Cameras in the Courtroom" does not convey amusement about the use or lack of use of cameras in the courtroom. The reader might infer that the author of "Challenging the Status Quo" is expressing annoyance by using the phrase "pales in comparison" (paragraph 4); however, within the context of the sentence, the author is using juxtaposition to emphasize the relative insignificance of the example.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 8 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
17	Option D is correct	The author of "Cameras in the Courtroom" details the long process, involving several trial studies and the adoption of new laws, of changing the practice of excluding cameras from federal courtrooms. In the article "Challenging the Status Quo," the author explains the challenges of achieving change and provides notable examples of people who challenged the status quo. Both authors show how complicated it can be for society to shift its practices.
	Option A is incorrect	Although the author of "Cameras in the Courtroom" does mention that some stakeholders worried that cameras in a court could constitute a distraction, neither author asserts that changes would lead to confusion.
	Option B is incorrect	The author of "Cameras in the Courtroom" does not include any information that would allow the reader to infer that changes in process are short-lived. The author of "Challenging the Status Quo" shares an example of a person who challenged the status quo but did not create immediate change; however, there is no implication in the article that change is often temporary.
	Option C is incorrect	Both authors show that changing existing processes requires effort; however, neither author asserts that it requires too much effort.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 8 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
18	Option D is correct	Tone is the way in which the author expresses his or her attitude through the writing. The author of "Cameras in the Courtroom" creates a tone that is focused on logical reasoning regarding the use of cameras in courts. In "Challenging the Status Quo," the author uses language to express a tone of hope and aspiration that change will make people's lives better.
	Option A is incorrect	In "Cameras in the Courtroom," the author uses the phrase "supported the ban" to identify or describe a group of people who supported the camera ban, not to express a pleased tone. Similarly, the author's use of the phrase "stuck in old ways" in "Challenging the Status Quo" is a nonjudgmental observation of human behavior.
	Option B is incorrect	Although the phrase "a closed loop" from "Challenging the Status Quo" is used to indicate an explanatory tone, the author of "Cameras in the Courtroom" uses the phrase "defendants would get nervous" to describe a concern held by a group of people, not to describe the author's own attitude toward the subject.
	Option C is incorrect	The author of "Cameras in the Courtroom" uses the phrase "jurors would be distracted" to describe a concern held by a group of people, not to describe the author's own attitude toward the subject. The author of "Challenging the Status Quo" uses the phrase "Everyone should be" to set a persuasive tone, not an arrogant tone.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 8 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
19	Option A is correct	Identifying the concerns of the people who want to ban cameras in courtrooms supports the key idea in paragraphs 1 and 2 of “Challenging the Status Quo”: people are slow to change—in this case, because of worries related to changes.
	Option B is incorrect	The author is showing an example of policy change, which does not support the key idea in paragraphs 1 and 2 of “Challenging the Status Quo.”
	Option C is incorrect	The author is highlighting a suggested change to the law, which does not support the key idea in paragraphs 1 and 2 of “Challenging the Status Quo.”
	Option D is incorrect	The detail about the lack of input from federal judges is unconnected to the key idea in paragraphs 1 and 2 of “Challenging the Status Quo.”

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 8 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
20	Option D is correct	Carol displays her interest in learning more about the book’s special qualities by rereading the section that contains changes.
	Option A is incorrect	Carol makes the decision to discuss her most recent read, but this is not evidence that she is determined to explore the special book further.
	Option B is incorrect	Carol hopes that she will be permitted to go back into the library, but this is not evidence that she is determined to explore the book further.
	Option C is incorrect	Her initial avoidance of the book does not show that Carol is determined to further explore the book’s qualities.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 8 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
21	Option D is correct	Carol’s desire to discover the truth behind the mystery of the book affects the rising action by creating a reason for her to go back to the library, which drives the plot forward.
	Option A is incorrect	The idea that Carol believes in facts affects her motivation to learn more about the book, but it does not affect the rising action in the excerpt.
	Option B is incorrect	In paragraph 6, Carol wants to visit Mr. Linden, but her mother is not feeling well. This could be misinterpreted as a conflict; however, Carol’s mother allows Carol to go without her, so there is no conflict.
	Option C is incorrect	In paragraph 3, Mr. Linden says that both he and Carol are readers, but this connection is not what moves the plot forward in the rising action of the excerpt.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 8 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
22	Option C is correct	The author uses suspense throughout the rising action to excite the reader and to create interest in the mysterious book.
	Option A is incorrect	In paragraph 3, Mr. Linden does say that he and Carol are both readers. However, the author does not create suspense around the mysterious book to show that Mr. Linden plans to share his love of books with Carol, because Mr. Linden has already been sharing his library with her.
	Option B is incorrect	The change in weather is referenced in paragraph 6, but the author does not use suspense throughout the rising action to create interest in the changing weather.
	Option D is incorrect	The author uses suspense throughout the rising action to entice the reader to want to know more about the book, not to suggest anything about Carol’s dreams, though her dreams do help build suspense about the book.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 8 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
23	Option B is correct	In paragraphs 2 and 5, the reader learns that Carol believes that all things should make sense. However, in the library she discovers a book that changes. She cannot use logic to explain what is happening, and this causes her to doubt her beliefs.
	Option A is incorrect	In the excerpt, Carol visits Mr. Linden’s library. Although she is allowed to be alone in the library, there is no evidence that the quiet place helps her reflect on her beliefs.
	Option C is incorrect	Although the reader might infer that Carol’s belief system is somewhat rigid and restrictive, the setting does not influence Carol to become more carefree.
	Option D is incorrect	It is not Carol’s dreams that have changed her beliefs; it is her experiences with the book in Mr. Linden’s library that have challenged her belief that all things make sense.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 8 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
24	Row 1, Column 2, "Does Not Support" is correct	Having characters from different backgrounds does not indicate that the genre is fictional mystery.
	Row 2, Column 1, "Supports" is correct	The main character encountering a puzzle indicates that the genre is fictional mystery.
	Row 3, Column 2, "Does Not Support" is correct	Referencing the changing of seasons is not a detail that is unique to fictional mystery.
	Row 4, Column 1, "Supports" is correct	The unusual features of the setting show that the excerpt is a fictional mystery.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 8 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
25	Option A is correct	Figurative language is language that uses words that mean something different from their literal interpretation. In the sentence from paragraph 8, the mysterious book is personified. The effect of the figurative language used by the author highlights that Carol senses something unusual awaits her.
	Option B is incorrect	Carol is not imagining things; the book is in fact changing, and the purpose of the figurative language is to emphasize that she senses that something extraordinary awaits her in the library.
	Option C is incorrect	Sneaking up on someone or something could imply menace; however, Carol is not sneaking up on the books with the intention of surprising or harming them.
	Option D is incorrect	In the sentence from paragraph 8, Carol moves quietly into the library; however, there is no comparison between the library and other parts of the house.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 8 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
26	Option C is correct	The author includes paragraphs 11 and 12 most likely to give the reader specific details about the mysterious book's contents. Both paragraphs 11 and 12 are excerpts from the mysterious book in which a boy named Esteban is swimming toward an island.
	Option A is incorrect	Paragraphs 11 and 12 include only what Carol is reading from the book. There is evidence of Carol's point of view about the book in paragraph 13, but not in paragraphs 11 and 12.
	Option B is incorrect	Although the mysterious book belongs to Mr. Linden, the author's inclusion of paragraphs 11 and 12 does not show that it is the type of book Mr. Linden enjoys. In fact, in paragraphs 17 and 18, Mr. Linden seems upset when Carol mentions the book.
	Option D is incorrect	Although paragraphs 11 and 12 introduce Esteban, the main character in the mysterious book, there is no evidence that Esteban is a secondary character in the main story line.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 8 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale
27	For ECR items, please refer to the scoring guide.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 8 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
28	Option B is correct	This revision corrects the awkward and misleading structure of the original sentence by replacing “and America with a promise” with “and America’s promise.” The revised sentence effectively captures the two distinct elements emphasized by the new art style.
	Option A is incorrect	Using this sentence structure, the writer describes the grandeur of nature as being identical to the land of boundless opportunity, which is confusing and unintended.
	Option C is incorrect	The writer unnecessarily repeats the phrase “it emphasized,” and the revision mistakenly runs together the grandeur of nature and America’s promise, as if these were a single point of emphasis.
	Option D is incorrect	This revision is awkwardly worded and implies that emphasizing the grandeur of nature was for America’s freedom, which is incorrect and misleading.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 8 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
29	Option C is correct	In the third paragraph, the writer compares Cole’s art with the popular styles of art up to his time. The information in sentence 14 is about how Cole came to be an American and is not relevant to the rest of the paragraph, so sentence 14 should be removed.
	Option A is incorrect	In sentence 12, the writer observes that Cole’s art was different from other American artists of his time, so it should not be removed.
	Option B is incorrect	The writer uses sentence 13 to explain how American art at this time was influenced by European styles and standards. This sentence should be included because it gives context for sentence 15.
	Option D is incorrect	In sentence 15, the writer notes that few artists in Europe were painting landscapes. This detail helps build a central idea in this paragraph and should not be deleted.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 8 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
30	Option A is correct	With this transition sentence, the writer best connects the ideas in the fourth and fifth paragraphs by using the phrase "Over time," which indicates a gradual expansion of the movement. The sentence is used to introduce the inclusion of new painters and their new geographic subjects, the theme of the fifth paragraph.
	Option B is incorrect	In this sentence, the writer mentions additional painters joining the movement, but the sentence does not effectively show the progression of the movement or set the stage for the variety of landscapes that these artists would paint.
	Option C is incorrect	The writer's use of "On the other hand" inaccurately signals a contrast between the two paragraphs and the artists discussed in each. This sentence does not create an effective transition into the fifth paragraph, which describes similar painters with new subjects.
	Option D is incorrect	This is not an effective transition sentence because it merely repeats the information given in sentence 20 about painting in the Valley.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 8 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale
31	For SCR items, please refer to the scoring guide.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 8 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
32	Option D is correct	In the closing paragraph, the writer focuses on how the art created by the Hudson River School artists conveyed optimistic and uplifting values to the American public. The writer appropriately uses this sentence to conclude that these values and sentiments led to the paintings' widespread popularity in this country.
	Option A is incorrect	In this sentence, the writer describes personal qualities of the Hudson River School artists that are not discussed in this paper, which makes this an ineffective concluding sentence for the paper.
	Option B is incorrect	While the information in this sentence might follow from the information in sentence 31, it does not reflect the broader meaning and intent of this paper.
	Option C is incorrect	In this option, the writer uses second-person voice to address the reader with a call to action, which does not fit with the informational tone and purpose of this paper.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 8 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
33	Option A is correct	By using the predicate from sentence 3 to modify "this document," the writer creates a concise and effective sentence.
	Option B is incorrect	Combining the sentences in this way results in an awkward and ineffective sentence in which the document is referred to twice.
	Option C is incorrect	In this sentence combination, the writer incorrectly places the word "unique." She is suggesting that the document was only unique between 1787 and 1790.
	Option D is incorrect	In this sentence, the writer implies that it was the ratifying of the document that was unique, rather than the document itself. This is not what was intended, as can be seen in the original sentence 4.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 8 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
34	Option C is correct	These sentences effectively introduce the writer’s controlling idea for this paper, which is that another, somewhat similar constitution governed the nation before the U.S. Constitution was enacted.
	Option A is incorrect	With these sentences, the writer explains only that the Articles of Confederation preceded the U. S. Constitution. No indication is given that the Articles were an early version of a constitution.
	Option B is incorrect	In this replacement for sentences 6 and 7, the writer equates the two documents as being equally important. This does not effectively introduce the main point of the paper, which is that the Articles preceded and were replaced by the Constitution.
	Option D is incorrect	With these sentences, the writer offers only a claim that this second document should be studied. This is not an appropriate introduction or controlling idea for an informational paper, since it gives no indication of the content that will follow.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 8 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
35	Option B is correct	In this paper, the writer describes the shortcomings that the Founding Fathers discovered in the Articles of Confederation. The word "flawed" signals that something has a defect, which makes it an appropriate replacement for "awry."
	Option A is incorrect	The word "bungled" is a casual term that usually means "badly done." While one could say that the Articles of Confederation were "bungled," this tone is not appropriate for an informational paper.
	Option C is incorrect	The word "muddled" can mean to make muddy or to mix confusedly. This description of the document is not supported elsewhere in the paper, and it is inconsistent with the tone of the paper.
	Option D is incorrect	"Snarled" is not an appropriate word to use because it means that something is knotted or tangled. This claim about the Articles is not supported by the information given in this paper.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 8 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
36	Option A is correct	In this option, the writer properly places the phrases "and disagreements" and "this rule," making this revision of sentence 22 a clear and concise sentence.
	Option B is incorrect	The phrase "between the states" is incorrectly placed in this sentence. This prepositional phrase should follow "rivalries and disagreements," which it modifies.
	Option C is incorrect	This revision is a confusing sentence that is inconsistent in structure, since "many" cannot modify both "rivalries" and "disagreeing."
	Option D is incorrect	In this sentence, the writer implies that there were two things that were difficult to change: the rule and the Articles of Confederation. This is misleading. This sentence also unnecessarily repeats the phrase "between the states."

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 8 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
37	Option C is correct	With this sentence, the writer provides the best support for the ideas in the sixth paragraph by stating what the delegates did when they gathered to address the failed Articles of Confederation. They began to create the Constitution, which would replace the Articles.
	Option A is incorrect	While the information stated in this sentence may indicate one motivation of the delegates for coming to the Constitutional Convention, it does not describe what action they took when they gathered.
	Option B is incorrect	The information that the writer gives about Philadelphia fails to indicate what actions were taken by the delegates to address their concerns. Thus, it does not follow through or complete the information given in the sixth paragraph.
	Option D is incorrect	With this sentence, the writer implies that it was only Washington who found fault in the Articles of Confederation, which contradicts the claim in sentence 24 that other leaders shared his view. This sentence also does not convey what actions followed from their gathering together.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 8 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
38	Option D is correct	"Excitement" corrects the misspelling "exitement" in this sentence.
	Option A is incorrect	"Excitment" is not the correct way to spell "excitement."
	Option B is incorrect	"Exitemint" is an incorrect spelling of "excitement."
	Option C is incorrect	"Excitemint" is another misspelling of the word "excitement."

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 8 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
39	Option D is correct	The quotation marks after "Friday" should be deleted because the dialogue does not end in sentence 4. It continues to the end of sentence 5.
	Option A is incorrect	"Started" is the correct verb tense to use in this sentence because Dad is telling about an event that happened "last Friday," which is in the past.
	Option B is incorrect	"Identified" is the correct spelling of the word, and it should not be changed.
	Option C is incorrect	Adding a comma after "values" is not correct in this sentence.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 8 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
40	Option B is correct	The word "focus" is the subject of the sentence and is singular, so for the subject and verb to agree in number, the writer must use the verb phrase "is making."
	Option A is incorrect	The verb phrase "are making" is incorrect because it does not agree with the subject of the sentence, which is "focus," not "values."
	Option B is incorrect	"Were making" is an incorrect answer choice because it does not agree with the singular subject of the sentence, which is "focus."
	Option C is incorrect	The verb phrase "have been making" is incorrect because it does not agree in number with the subject of the sentence, which is "focus," not "values."

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 8 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
41	Option C is correct	A colon is the correct punctuation to use after "these" in sentence 7 because a list of values is being introduced.
	Option A is incorrect	"As" is the correct subordinating conjunction to use in this sentence because it means "at the same time." Erin noticed the words at the very same time that her eyes "scanned the page."
	Option B is incorrect	Changing the comma after "page" to a period would create a fragment because "As my eyes scanned the page" is not a complete sentence.
	Option C is incorrect	The correct spelling of this word is "excellence," so it should not be changed.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 8 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
42	Option B is correct	There are two main clauses in sentence 2 that are connected with a comma, which creates a comma-splice error. This sentence corrects the error by replacing the comma and the word "then" with the subordinating conjunction "until."
	Option A is incorrect	This response is incorrect because the second phrase is a fragment.
	Option C is incorrect	The first structure in this answer choice is a fragment, which makes this option incorrect.
	Option D is incorrect	This option is incorrect because it introduces another comma-splice error.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 8 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
43	Option D is correct	No change is needed in this sentence because it is complete and contains no grammatical or mechanical errors.
	Option A is incorrect	"Attempted" is spelled correctly in the sentence.
	Option B is incorrect	This option is incorrect since a comma needs to follow the subordinate clause "the more I attempted to move it."
	Option C is incorrect	"Seemed" is the correct past-tense verb to use in this sentence because the writer is relating events that happened in the past.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 8 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
44	Option A is correct	The subordinating conjunction "because" indicates a reason for doing something. In this sentence, "as" is the appropriate subordinating conjunction because it shows that Camila looked at her foot and realized what had happened at the same time.
	Option B is incorrect	The adverb "closely" correctly modifies the verb "looked," so using the adjective "close" would create an error in the sentence.
	Option C is incorrect	Changing "I knew" to "knowing" cannot be correct because it would create a sentence fragment.
	Option D is incorrect	Because Camilla is describing an event that has already happened to her at this point in the story, the past perfect "had happened" is appropriate here.

STAAR Spring 2024 Grade 8 Reading Language Arts Rationales

Item Position	Rationale	
45	Option C is correct	Camilla describes her fall on the volleyball court as having occurred “yesterday,” so the past-perfect verb “had left” is correct. The fall was already in the past at this point in the story.
	Option A is incorrect	The word “yesterday’s” is possessive in this sentence, so the apostrophe is required.
	Option B is incorrect	The word “volleyball” is not a proper noun, so there is no need to capitalize it.
	Option D is incorrect	“Swollen” is the correct spelling of this word.