

Critical Skills Assignment Rubric

Critical Reading: Persuasive Text

Total Possible Score: 10 points

Use the rubrics to evaluate the responses to each item.

(Score: ____ of 10 points)

Brothers and Sisters or One and Only?

1. What does the idiom *in the same boat* mean in Paragraph 8?

Model Answer

in the same situation

Objective 52873: Explain the meaning of common idioms, adages, or proverbs appropriate for a fourth-grade level.

Score	0.5 point	0 points
Level	Exemplary	Unacceptable
Scoring notes	accurately explains the meaning of the adage <i>in the same boat</i> as it is used in Paragraph 8	inaccurately explains the meaning of the adage <i>in the same boat</i> as it is used in Paragraph 8

2. What does the word *thrive* mean in Paragraph 3?

Model Answer

flourish; do well; succeed

Objective 52867: Use context clues, including definitions, examples, restatements, to determine the meaning of a word or phrase, at a fourth-grade level.

Score	0.5 point	0 points
Level	Exemplary	Unacceptable
Scoring notes	accurately explains the meaning of the word <i>thrive</i> as it is used in Paragraph 3	inaccurately explains the meaning of the word <i>thrive</i> as it is used in Paragraph 3

3. The main idea of the passage is that being an only child or a sibling has benefits and challenges.

Identify a sentence from the passage that **best** supports this main idea.

Model Answer

But, people can list pros and cons for both sides.

Objective 52776: Explain how key details support the main idea of an informational text written at a fourth-grade reading level.

Score	1 point	0.5 point	0 points
Level	Exemplary	Emerging	Unacceptable
Scoring notes	fully addresses the question	partially addresses the question	does not answer the question

4. Reread Paragraphs 7 through 9. Then read this sentence:

Studies show that being an only child can be good, too.

How does the author support the underlined statement? Give at least two examples from the text to support your answer.

Model Answer

The author supports the statement about how being an only child can be good by giving information from Dr. Toni Falbo, who studied only children in China and in the United States for a long time.

Dr. Falbo says that only children do better in school because the parents can spend more time and money on a single child. Onlys have better self-esteem and better language skills. The parents can be more involved in the student's school life and afford to take the child on trips, which would add to the child's learning.

Objective 52796: Explain how an author uses reasons or evidence to support particular points in an informational text written at a fourth-grade reading level.

Score	2 points	1.5 points	1 point	0.5 point	0 points
Level	Exemplary	Proficient	Emerging	Novice	Unacceptable
Scoring notes	fully addresses each element of the question	mostly addresses each element of the question	partially addresses each element of the question	addresses few elements of the question	does not answer the question

Birth Order: Does It Matter?

5. The main idea of the passage is that some people believe that birth order affects how a person acts.

Identify a sentence from the passage that **best** supports this main idea.

Model Answer

They think being born first, next, or last in a family affects children's behavior and success as adults.

Objective 52776: Explain how key details support the main idea of an informational text written at a fourth-grade reading level.

Score	1 point	0.5 point	0 points
Level	Exemplary	Emerging	Unacceptable
Scoring notes	fully addresses the question	partially addresses the question	does not answer the question

6. Does the birth order idea apply to all families? Why or why not? What do you think about the birth order theory?

Use examples from the text and your own ideas to support your answers.

Model Answer

The birth order idea does not explain the actions of all children because not all families are put together the same way. In the text, it says some families are blended together. For example, if there were two kids from two families that blended and the parents had another baby, there would be two youngest children. But, then in the blended family, it would mean there is a middle kid, too.

I don't think the birth order theory works in my family because it doesn't explain the way everyone acts. My family has four children, and I am the second child. My oldest brother does not try to be the leader, though. He likes to be left alone and does not try to please our parents. I am the second child, so I would be a middle kid. But, I think I am more the leader than my brother is. I don't worry about being special like the passage said middle kids do. I think I am special because I am the only girl and the only one who can do a cartwheel!

Objective 52773: Use details or examples from an informational text written at a fourth-grade reading level to explain what the text specifically says.

Score	2 points	1.5 points	1 point	0.5 point	0 points
Level	Exemplary	Proficient	Emerging	Novice	Unacceptable
Scoring notes	fully addresses each element of the question	mostly addresses each element of the question	partially addresses each element of the question	addresses few elements of the question	does not answer the question

7. How are firstborn and only children alike?

Give three examples from “Brothers and Sisters or One and Only?” and “Birth Order: Does It Matter?” to support your answers.

Model Answer

The birth order article says that firstborn and only children like to please people, especially their parents. This is because they both get all the parents' attention.

The birth order article also says parents try to follow all the rules with first children because they have never had children before. So, the kids like to follow rules, too. Since only children are the first and only child of parents, they would be the same.

In the sibling article, Dr. Falbo talks about how the parents of only children can be more involved with school and do extra activities. Since an oldest child would be an only for a little while, that could happen for an oldest for a while.

Objective 52773: Use details or examples from an informational text written at a fourth-grade reading level to explain what the text specifically says.

Score	2 points	1.5 points	1 point	0.5 point	0 points
Level	Exemplary	Proficient	Emerging	Novice	Unacceptable
Scoring notes	fully addresses each element of the question	mostly addresses each element of the question	partially addresses each element of the question	addresses few elements of the question	does not answer the question