

Missouri Assessment Program – Practice Form

Grade 6 English Language Arts

Transcripts of Listening Passages

The following two pages contain the transcripts of the listening passages in Session 4 of the grade 6 English Language Arts online practice form. The transcripts may be provided to hearing impaired students who need support to access the listening passages. The Test Examiner should read the passages aloud to the student. In circumstances where the student has no hearing, does not sign and cannot read lips, the student may read the passages directly. The passages correspond to the following questions in Session 4:

Passage 1: Questions 1–4

Passage 2: Questions 5–8

The transcripts must remain secure at all times. After testing, the transcripts must be destroyed by the STC or DTC at the building level, and electronic files must be deleted.

The Middle School Newspaper: A Worthwhile Effort

Producing a school newspaper is hard work, but it is rewarding. Students who read the newspaper benefit because they find out about significant events that are going on at school and in the community. Students who volunteer to join the newspaper staff also acquire valuable life skills. Newspaper staff learn to work with others, have an opportunity to improve their abilities, and gain experience communicating for different audiences.

First, as the staff organize, write, and edit the newspaper, students learn to work together as a team. They work with volunteers from several different grades. Members of the newspaper staff have differing viewpoints and opinions. Each one is obliged to be flexible and to consider the new or unusual ideas that others present.

Second, volunteers all have their own special interests and skills. Working on the newspaper improves these skills. They become better writers, photographers, and page designers. Students learn how to manage their time to meet deadlines. They also have the opportunity to practice the computer technologies they are learning in class.

Finally, a school newspaper allows students to communicate with more than their close friends and family. Instead, as they gather material for each issue's articles, they might communicate with students they don't know or with adults. This acquaints them with a wide variety of people. Also, the newspaper content must be written to appeal to all students as well as parents and teachers.

A school newspaper encourages personal expression along with teamwork. It teaches flexibility along with the need to meet deadlines. When their work is published and others like it, students feel happy and motivated. Research shows that students who volunteer for the school newspaper learn important skills to help them be successful in the future.

Why Good Teachers Deserve Recognition

In schools across the nation, great teachers are changing students' lives for the better. These teachers help their students become excited to learn and inspired about their futures. Often using humor or creative methods, they become mentors and shining examples to their students. Unfortunately, these extraordinary teachers are not always recognized for their contributions. Great teachers serve from the heart, regardless of recognition. Even so, they should be recognized and rewarded for their valuable work.

Research shows that teachers are the most important influence in schools at helping students succeed. Other influences include school programs, financial resources, and administration staff. It is estimated that a teacher's impact on student performance is two to three times greater than anything else at school. A teacher who makes students enthusiastic about learning, a teacher who makes students feel cared for—this teacher is truly great.

Around the world, the level of public respect teachers receive varies greatly. In some places, such as China, teachers are given the same level of respect as doctors. In the United States, the teaching profession is less respected. Many believe that in order for the United States to recruit the brightest and the best into the teaching profession, teaching needs to become a high-status occupation. Financial reward is also important. These two changes are important in attracting the best teachers to the profession.

People who do extraordinary jobs often receive rewards. Students are recognized in school. Workers are rewarded in business. Teachers deserve no less. From a simple, heartfelt "thank you" to public recognition and even financial bonuses, there are many ways to show appreciation. While great teachers do not strive for such rewards, they certainly deserve them. Truly, they create hope and open a future for young people in ways that cannot be measured.