

4.0 Opinion Animals and Their Surroundings

MDE M-STEP Conversion Practice Assessment Very Short Teachers Edition

These MDE M-STEP Conversion Practice Assessments have been created to serve **two purposes**:

1. to acquaint students with the kind of thinking that will be required of them as they write their answers to Part 2 in three forms: Informational/Explanatory, Opinion/Argumentative, and Narrative.
2. but more important, to serve as a model for teachers of the kind of thinking students should be doing daily in order to meet the Common Core State Standards.

The MISD M-STEP practice assessments based on MISD Literature Units are all Informational or Explanatory because the informational text added to the 2011 Common Core State Standard revision does not lend itself to Opinion/Argumentative or Narrative format. To give students and teachers more exposure to the kind of thinking and writing being called for by M-STEP, we have converted Informational/Explanatory assessments to Opinion/Argumentative and vice versa where possible.

The words “**short constructed response**” in Part 1 of the assessments require that students write two to five sentences depending on the number of examples or pieces of evidence required by each question. Teachers should inform students of this and let them know where to write the answers to these questions.

The MDE M-STEP Practice Assessments include only three **short constructed responses**, but there are 4 included in grade 3-5 MISD assessments so students will be aware of more assessment possibilities. Answers to the short constructed response questions in **this** grade level assessment follow:

- a. Source #1
- b. Source #3
- c. Source #2

Although having possible answers for all sections of Parts 1 and 2, would be more helpful in instruction, getting these assessments to teachers for students is most important.

The MDE M-STEP Practice Assessments ask for **three forms of writing in Part 2**:

1. **Informational (3-5), Explanatory (6-8)**
2. **Opinion (3-5), Argumentative (6-8)**
3. **Narrative (3-8)** (MDE assessments only include one example of Narrative (6th grade)

The goal of these MISD MDE Conversion assessments was to include interesting passages so that these assessments would not be an add-on but be an integral part of regular instruction.

Please be sure that students have access to the attached rubrics and have had instruction in the expectations of these rubrics in advance of administration of these practice assessments.