

Writing Across Texts

“Lolo’s No Choke” and “The Art of Failure”

We have spent a considerable amount of time over the last few weeks reading, rereading, writing about, and talking about “Lolo’s No Choke” by Sean Gregory and “The Art of Failure” by Malcolm Gladwell.

We worked with the texts separately, studying each author’s ideas about failure, and studying and comparing the function of narratives and research in these two texts. We worked to analyze a statement in Gregory’s text through the ideas in Gladwell’s text and synthesized the ideas in each text to develop a shared understanding of what it means to fail.

All of your work over the last several weeks has prepared you to engage in this final task.

Purpose

This task has three purposes: (1) to work across the two texts to determine what you know about what happens when a person fails, (2) to apply your knowledge to a new situation, and (3) to use what you know about effective explanations to clearly state your ideas, include relevant textual evidence to support your ideas, and include clear explanations that articulate how the evidence supports or links to your ideas.

Task

Based on your understanding of “Lolo’s No Choke” and “The Art of Failure,” draft an essay in which you explain why a person might fail in a high-pressure situation (e.g., the championship game, a test, a recital). End your essay with some tips about how someone might prevent failing in that situation. Be sure to cite and explain evidence from both texts to support your explanation. Follow the conventions of standard written English.

A few things:

- You have many notes in your Reader/Writer Notebook and on the texts themselves to support you to write your essay. Reread the texts and your notes before you begin planning your essay.
- Make sure to fully develop, support, and explain your ideas. Remember that an effective explanation includes clearly stated ideas, relevant textual evidence to support your ideas, and clear explanations that articulate how the evidence supports or links to your ideas.
- Your essay should be structured so that it makes sense and is easy to follow, but how you organize your essay and the number of paragraphs you use to develop your ideas is up to you.
- When you refer to a specific line from the texts, be sure to quote it accurately and provide the line number where the quotation can be found.

Grade 8: Writing Across Texts Decision Tree Scoring Guide

