



NeSA Text Dependent Analysis (TDA)

2015 Sampler Passage

Grade 8

Passage: A Highway of Water

Scoring Guide

Prompt: The passages “There’s Still Gold in Those Hills” and “Letters from a Gold Miner” are both about the history of gold mining. Explain how the passages help the reader understand the history and process of gold mining in the United States. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from BOTH passages to support your answer.

Sample A

“There’s Still Gold in Those Hills” and “Letter from a Gold Miner” helps the reader understand the history and process of gold mining in several ways. It gives basic information on gold mining as well as an explanation on how to mine for gold. It also give a first-hand account of being a gold miner in the California Gold Rush.

There has been many gold rushes in the history of the U.S. in states Colorado, Nevada, Montana, Arizona, New Mexico, Idaho, Oregon, and Alaska, according to “There’s Still Gold in Those Hills.” which also stated that over a hundred years later, the gold mining operations have been abandoned although there is still gold in those hills today. People can still mine for gold today just like they did in the 1800s.

In 1850, Sheldon Shufelt, a man who went to California in search of gold, wrote a letter to his cousin explaining the fields of gold there as described in “Letter From a Gold Miner.” First, these miners set up camp. They pitched tents, and bought their picks, shovels, and pans to try their luck at gold panning. Shufelt describes a scenery where gold seems to be in abundance. “It is found along the banks of the streams and in the beds of the same, and in almost every little ravine putting into the streams,” he says. Shufelt also talks about prospecting and the different methods people use to obtain their gold, such as a tool called a tom. A tom is, as Shufelt states, “a box or trough, about 8 or 9 feet long, with some 18 inches wide and from 5 to 6 inches high with an iron sieve in one end punched with ½ in holes. Underneath this is placed a ripple or box with two ripples across it.” He then describes how the tom works. It is placed in an oblique position and a hose brings water. All the dirt, stone, clay, etc. is stirred into the water with a shovel until the water is clear of everything and the gold falls into the box underneath.

People today can use a similar process to pan for gold. If you wish to do so, you will need a shovel to dig up rocks and a gold-panning pan. These pans can be sold at sports stores and hobby shops. Next, you must find a location to pan for gold. Gold can be found in all 50 states, but it is most abundant in the western third of the country. The first step is to fill your pan with sand and gravel from a stream. Then, you dip the pan into water. Once that is completed, you swirl the pan around, slowly ridding it of dirt and debris. This will also get rid of the water, so you will need to refill the pan with water periodically as you repeat this process. Finally, all that will remain are some flecks of gold and probably some black sand known as magnetite. Magnetite is given its name because of its magnetic properties, so you can easily use just a magnet to get rid of the magnetite. The only remaining substance in the pan should be tiny, sparkling flecks. “Is this real gold?” you ask yourself. Hopefully so, but these shimmering flecks could also be fool’s gold which is a nearly useless material that looks similar to real gold. This information was obtained and paraphrased from “There’s Still Gold in Those Hills.”

As you can see, these two passages are extremely informative on the history and process of gold mining. “There’s Still Gold in Those Hills” gives a brief history on previous gold rushes as well as descriptive instructions on how to pan for gold. “Letter from a Gold Miner” gave a primary source for what things were like for gold miners in the 1849 California Gold Rush. Clearly, these sources helped the reader understand the history and process of gold mining in the United States very well.

Sample A Annotation

Score: 3

This response demonstrates effective analysis of text, use of evidence, and writing skills. The response demonstrates understanding of text by addressing the task of explaining how the passages help the reader understand the history and process of gold mining in the United States. Relevant evidence from both texts supports this claim. Specific details relating to the history and process of gold mining are integrated into the response and provide support for the explanation. The response is focused and includes a clear introduction and conclusion. The response occasionally uses precise word choice and vocabulary from the text. Clear use of paraphrasing and quoting are evident. Errors in conventions do not interfere with meaning.

Prompt: The passages “There’s Still Gold in Those Hills” and “Letters from a Gold Miner” are both about the history of gold mining. Explain how the passages help the reader understand the history and process of gold mining in the United States. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from BOTH passages to support your answer.

Sample B

The passages “There’s Still Gold in Those Hills” and “Letters from a Gold Miner” are both about the history and process of gold mining. These two passages are very descriptive and helpful to the reader in understanding what gold mining is like today and during the gold rush of the 1850s. The passage “There’s Still Gold in Those Hills”, provides the reader with useful historical information about the gold rush era, and then goes on to explain how and where people today can still pan for gold. The passage “Letters from a Gold Miner”, is an actual historical document in the form of a letter written in 1850 by a ‘forty-niner’ Sheldon Shufelt which, among other things, explains a method of gold mining using a device called a tom.

The passage “There’s Still Gold in Those Hills” gives the reader useful historical information about the gold rush era. America experienced the gold rush in the middle of the nineteenth century and gold was found in Colorado, Nevada, Montana, Arizona, New Mexico, Idaho, Oregon and Alaska. In California gold was discovered in 1848, and the gold seekers there were called forty-niners after the year that followed. The passage “Letters from a Gold Miner”, gives useful information into the life of a gold miner as it describes what life was like in 1850. Sheldon Shufelt wrote “we walked by the wagon and at night cooked our suppers, rolled our blankets around us and lay down to rest on the ground... After leaving the plains we passed over some hills that looked dry and barren being burnt up by the sun and long droughts” Life sounds hard for the miners in 1850.

Both passages are very helpful in showing the process of mining for gold. “There’s Still Gold in Those Hills” tells the reader where exactly is the best places to look for gold in the rivers. “A gold seeker looks for a stream. A smaller creek is usually the best place to find gold since a stream that fills with rainwater from time to time will have seen a good deal of erosion, allowing gold to travel most easily”. The passage then explains in detail how to pan for gold. “A gold seeker digs up a shovelful of gravel from the stream and puts it in the pan, then he dips the pan into the stream and allows water to soak the material”. Then “The seeker shakes the pan a few times. The seeker swishes the material in the pan in a slow circular movement”. When a small amount of sand remains you can use tweezers to remove bits of gold. This is how the passage helps us understand the process of panning for gold today and a useful flow chart is also included to help as well. In the 1850s the process for mining gold was different and they used a cradle or tom to find the gold. The letter from Shufelt also tells us where the best places to find gold are. “It is found along the banks of the streams and in the beds of the same, and in almost every little ravine putting into the streams” This information is very similar to that in the first passage. Panning for gold like we do today was called prospecting and was done to find where the most gold could be found. When they found enough gold they used the tom. In the passage “Letters from a Gold Miner”, the process of using a tom is described in detail. “It is a box or trough, about 8 or 9 feet long, some 18 inches wide and from 5 to 6 inches high with an iron sieve in one end punched with ½ inch holes. Underneath this is placed a ripple or box with two ripples across it. The tom is placed in an oblique position, the water is brought on by a hose. The dirt stone clay is then thrown in and stirred with a shovel, the gold and finer gravel goes through the sieve and falls under the box and lodges under the ripples”. The process of mining for gold in 1850 was very hard work with lots of digging and shoveling and long days of labor. The tom was a good way to find lots of gold during the gold rush era when there was still plenty of gold in the hills. Today much of the gold has gone, but by panning for gold in the same way they prospected for gold in the 1850s, you may get lucky and find small amounts of it in the hills. Finding gold today is a hobby, where it was a way of life for Sheldon Shufelt in 1850.

Both passages help the reader understand the history and process of gold mining in the US. They both provide detailed information on where to look for gold and how to get the gold out from the hills. The processes used today and in the past have not changed too much over time and both seem like they would take a long time and a lot of hard work, without always being successful. But after reading both passages I now know where to look for gold, and how to get rich.

Sample B Annotation Score: 4

This response demonstrates exemplary analysis of text, use of evidence, and writing skills. The response addresses all parts of the task, thoroughly explaining how the passages help the reader understand the history and process of gold mining in the United States. The response provides thorough, relevant analysis and specific text support from both passages about the processes of gold mining in the 1850s and panning for gold today. Skillful use of paraphrasing and quoting is evident. The response is well-focused. Precise word choice and content-specific vocabulary from the text are used skillfully to enhance ideas. A thorough understanding of conventions of standard English has been demonstrated, with few errors present.

Prompt: The passages “There’s Still Gold in Those Hills” and “Letters from a Gold Miner” are both about the history of gold mining. Explain how the passages help the reader understand the history and process of gold mining in the United States. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from BOTH passages to support your answer.

Sample C

Gold is everywhere, but it is difficult to find. In America, gold was first discovered in the mountains of California in 1848. At this time, thousands of people went to California because of this discovery. Gold rushes did not only take place in California, but in other states like Colorado, Nevada, Montana, Arizona, New Mexico, Idaho, Oregon, and Alaska. Since then, gold has been found in all of the 50 states. To the people who were seeking to find it, they were called forty-niners. Their names were that because of the year that followed, 1849. Today, there is still gold in the mountains that people are discovering.

People who try to find gold usually look for a stream. Then they will use a shovel and dig up the rocks where there might be gold. You will need a shovel, a pan, and tweezers. You will fill the pan full of sand and gravel from the stream. The pan needs water to swirl around so the gold can sink to the bottom. After the gold will hopefully sink to the bottom, you will need to scrape the top layer of sand off and add some more water. You keep repeating until there isn’t a lot of sand left. That is when you use the tweezers to take the bits of gold away from the rest of the sand. You do that process over and over again until you are finished.

In the letter, it explained how the gold miners ate and slept. There was a wagon that had suppers for them. They had to build tents and brought blankets so it would be easier to sleep and not be cold at night. After they woke up, they had to go over hills that looked burnt by the sun and dry. There were long droughts while they were trying to find gold. It took them four days to reach where they wanted to be. They got there at night on the fourth night. There was dirt, clay, and rocks. The gold was normally found on the clay. If it wasn’t then it was on the rocks which was the most fine of the gold. They used a box eight or nine feet long and had running water down it. The gold was caught on the bottom and the other sand and materials were left to wash down the box.

Both of the passages could help learn the history in many ways. The first passage explained where gold first was found in America and where all gold was found. It stated how today, gold was still found in the hills. The process of gold mining was told in text and in a picture. The second passage said how long it was until you got to where you’d want to be to find gold. It also said how the box to find gold looked like and where the gold could be at like in clay or rocks. All in all, those two passages could help a reader understand the history of gold mining.

Sample C Annotation

Score: 2

This response demonstrates partially effective analysis of text, use of evidence, and writing skills. While the final paragraph appears to be an attempt to address the task of explaining how the passages help the reader understand the history of gold mining, this response primarily summarizes or paraphrases portions of the text without focusing on the task. A partial understanding of the text is evident. The response includes a partially effective introduction, body, and conclusion. Minimal use of paraphrasing and quoting is evident. Some errors in conventions of standard English may interfere with meaning.

Prompt: The passages “There’s Still Gold in Those Hills” and “Letters from a Gold Miner” are both about the history of gold mining. Explain how the passages help the reader understand the history and process of gold mining in the United States. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from BOTH passages to support your answer.

Sample D

American experience a “gold rush” in the middle of the nineteenth century. Gold was discovered in the California mountains in 1848, and thousands of people hurried there. The gold seekers were called forty-niners named after the year that followed 1849. There was gold in Colorado, Nevada, Montana, Arizona, New Mexico, Idaho, Oregon and Alaska.

A gold seeker digs up a shovelful of gravel from the stream and puts it in the pan; Then he or she digs up the pan into the stream and allows the water to soak the material those searching will likely need a shovel to dig up rocks in the stream where gold might be as well as a pan that looks like a pie plate. Gold-panning pans are still sold at sports stores and hobby shops.

The black sand is called magnetic because of its magnetic properties. You can pan a gold by fill the pan most to the top with sand and gravel from the stream, scrape the top layers of the sands out of the pan and swirl the pan so the gold sinks to the bottom.

Sample D Annotation

Score: 1

This response demonstrates minimal analysis of text, use of evidence, and writing skills. The response minimally addresses the task and demonstrates a minimal understanding of the two texts. The response ineffectively analyzes explicit ideas from the texts. The response provides little relevant evidence from the passages to support analysis. The response is minimally focused. Minimal use of paraphrases or quotes is evident. Some errors in conventions interfere with meaning.

Prompt: The passages “There’s Still Gold in Those Hills” and “Letters from a Gold Miner” are both about the history of gold mining. Explain how the passages help the reader understand the history and process of gold mining in the United States. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from BOTH passages to support your answer.

Sample E

Gold? In California? Let’s pack up and try to get some for ourselves! These were probably some common phrases used in the 1800’s by several Americans. Gold was a very important part of American history and for thousands of Americans seeking a better life. In this essay, I’m going to talk about the history of gold mining in the United States and how to pan for gold yourself.

In this paragraph, I will talk about the history of gold mining and how it was important to America. In 1848, gold was discovered in California. After sharing this news, thousands of people hurried to California. These people, known as forty-niners, came for a better life for their family and to get money from finding gold. Gold rushes also happened in the states of Colorado, Nevada, Montana, Arizona, New Mexico, Idaho, Oregon, and Alaska. These were important to America because it made thousands of people go west and establish new territories that would later become states. In the next paragraph, I will talk about how to pan for gold yourself and how they did it back in the 1800’s.

As I have said, thousands of people went to several states to search for gold and make a claim. I will now talk about how they found that elusive, yellow element, and how you can too! Although gold has been found in all 50 states, the most promising area to search is the western third of the country. Because the gold gets washed out of the mountains by water, a person looking for gold should look for streams. When you find a stream that you think has gold, you will need some supplies to dig for it. A shovel would help to dig up the rocks where there could be gold, and a pan to check the gravel for gold. First you would dig up a shovelful of gravel and put it in the pan. Next you dip the pan in water to let it fill up with water and swirl it around so the gold can sink to the bottom. Then you would scrape the top layer of sand out of the pan. You would keep adding water and repeating the process until little sand remains. Finally you would remove bits of gold with tweezers. Not every shovelful has gold in it, so you have to stay patient and know that you will find some gold soon.

In the past two paragraphs, I have explained the history of mining in the United States and How you can find some yourself. The history of mining was very important to the United States, and it was a grueling process. However, gold changed the lives of many and it can be a fun activity to do when you have time on your hands. I hope this essay helped you learn more about gold, and thank you for reading it.

Sample E Annotation

Score: 2

This response demonstrates partially effective analysis of text, use of evidence, and writing skills. The response demonstrates partial understanding of the texts and partially analyzes the texts by addressing explicit ideas. Evidence from the texts is partially integrated into the response through the use of some details and examples. Some relevant and accurate evidence is provided to partially support the idea that “gold was a very important part of American history and for thousands of Americans seeking a better life.” The response is partially focused and includes a partially effective introduction, conclusion, and transitions. The response demonstrates partial evidence of an organizational pattern and mode suited to the purpose and audience. Minimal use of paraphrasing is evident. Precise word choice is occasionally used. Errors in conventions seldom interfere with meaning.

Prompt: The passages “There’s Still Gold in Those Hills” and “Letters from a Gold Miner” are both about the history of gold mining. Explain how the passages help the reader understand the history and process of gold mining in the United States. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from BOTH passages to support your answer.

Sample F

The passages “There’s still Gold in Those Hills” and “Letters from a Gold Miner” are both about the history of gold mining. These two passages are very descriptive with helping the reader understand the history and process of gold mining in the United States. They give specific dates and measurements, they tell about where to look and mine for any gold, and they descriptively give steps about how to mine for gold.

The passage titled “There’s Still Gold in Those Hills” gives the year when the gold rush was developed. It says that they gold rust started in 1848-1849. “Letters from a Gold Miner” tells the reader specific measurements of the boxes or troughs that the gold miners used for collecting gold. It states that they boxes or troughs are about 8 or 9 feet long, 18 inches wide and from 5 to 6 inches high, with an iron sieve in one end punch with ½ inch holes.

In “There’s Still Gold in Those Hills,” it lists multiple locations where the gold rush started such as California, Colorado, Nevada, Montana, Arizona, New Mexico, Idaho, Oregon, and Alaska. It also informs the reader that the most promising areas in which to search for gold are the states in the western third of the country, and that a small creek is usually the best place to find gold. “Letters From a Gold Miner” also describes where to find gold, such as the banks of streams, 10 to 15 feet from the beds up the bank. The passage also reads that gold miners have to dig several feet deep before they find any gold.

Last, both passages give steps how to mine for gold, using many details; such as what materials or tools to use, any precautions before gold miners start digging, a list of steps how to dig for the gold, and how to tell if what you got is actually gold or not. The passage “There’s Still Gold in Those Hills” tells about gold-panning pans, and how to use them. It also warns the reader not to leave any grease or oil in the pan, as it will cause the flakes of gold to be washed out. The passage then gives steps how to pan for gold, and lastly, informs the reader on fool’s gold, and warns about how fool’s gold can easily be confused with real gold. “Letters from a Gold Miner” also gives a shorter set of steps how to mine for gold. All in all, these two passages do a very good job helping the reader understand the history and process of gold mining in the United States.

Sample F Annotation

Score: 3

This response demonstrates effective analysis of text, use of evidence, and writing skills. The response demonstrates understanding of text by addressing the task of explaining how the passages help the reader understand the history and process of gold mining in the United States. Relevant evidence from both texts supports this claim. Specific details are integrated into the response and provide support for the analysis. The response is focused and includes a clear introduction, body, conclusion, and transitions. The response uses precise word choice and vocabulary from the text. Clear use of paraphrasing and quoting are evident. Errors in conventions seldom interfere with meaning.

Prompt: The passages “There’s Still Gold in Those Hills” and “Letters from a Gold Miner” are both about the history of gold mining. Explain how the passages help the reader understand the history and process of gold mining in the United States. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from BOTH passages to support your answer.

Sample G

The story There’s still gold in those hills, is about gold miners looking for gold. It also tells how to get gold and how gold was discovered in 1848. When gold was discovered the forty-niners traveled to California. Gold was also found in all 50 states. It also tells the shape and size of gold.

The story Letter from a gold miner, is about a gold miner. He writes a letter to his cousin about his trip to California. He also writes about a tool called tom. Tom is also about 8 or 9 feet long, 18 inches wide, and 5 to 6 inches high. It also has an iron sieve in one end with ½ inch holes, a ripple or box with two ripples across it.

Clearly, the stories have a lot in common to tell us about history. They also tell us about our past and probably our future too. They also tell us how to get gold and that there is gold still. They also tell us that no matter what we can get gold and do things for ourselves and for the people of the world too.

Sample G Annotation

Score: 1

This response demonstrates minimal analysis of text, use of evidence, and writing skills. The response minimally addresses the task and demonstrates a minimal understanding of the two texts. The response ineffectively analyzes explicit and implicit ideas from the texts. The response provides some relevant evidence from the passages to support analysis. The response is partially focused and includes a clear body and conclusion. Minimal use of paraphrases or quotes is evident. Errors in conventions seriously interfere with meaning.

Prompt: The passages “There’s Still Gold in Those Hills” and “Letters from a Gold Miner” are both about the history of gold mining. Explain how the passages help the reader understand the history and process of gold mining in the United States. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from BOTH passages to support your answer.

Sample H

I used to watch a lot of Gold mining shows, and they always had big equipment so they could sort a lot of material quickly, so I’ve wondered how long it would take to mine gold without all the equipment. After reading this article I got a better understanding. In the articles “There’s Still Gold in Those Hills” and “Letter from a Gold Miner” the reader can get a better understanding of the History and process of gold mining from the information presented.

One of the things in the article about the history of gold mining was that there was a Gold Rush in California starting in 1849. That piece of information shows that there was an abundance of gold in the West Coast and everyone wanted to get there & get rich. A quote from “Letter from a Gold Miner” said, “We hired an ox team to carry our baggage and started for this place...”. That piece of evidence shows that people just left their homes, packed up, and went to a place they didn’t know anything about. Another quote was, “We pitched our tents, shouldered our picks and shovels and with a pan in hand sallied forth to try our fortunes at gold digging.” That statement means that people just got there and got to work at a job they knew little, or nothing about.

The article talked about the process of mining too, it mentioned that most of the gold is on the west coast do do the mountains which is where the gold is washed out by water. That info. shows that since gold is washed out by water, mountain streams, or creeks where the best places to pan for gold. Another bit of information about the process of gold mining was when the miner had a pan full of dirt he/she would shake the pan to get the heavy material to sink to the bottom. This detail shows that gold is heavier than the surrounding material so it would sink, and the miner wanted it to sing & separate from the loose silt. The last piece of information was that three men could use a tom all day without taking it out of the water because it just washes the loose gravel out and leaves the prized gold at the bottom. That is evidence that shows that the use of the “tom” made gold mining much easier.

The process & history of gold mining can be better understood after reading the articles “There’s Still Gold in those Hills” and “Letter form a Gold Miner”. The drive to get rich is what pulled so many to California in 1849, even over 100 years later people still pan for the prized material.

Sample H Annotation

Score: 2

This response demonstrates partially effective analysis of text, use of evidence, and writing skills. The response demonstrates a partial understanding of text. Relevant evidence from both texts partially supports the analysis. Specific details are integrated into the response through the use of details and quotes. The response is focused and includes a clear introduction, conclusion, and transitions. The response occasionally uses precise word choice and vocabulary from the text. Use of paraphrasing and quoting are evident. Errors in conventions may interfere with meaning.

Prompt: The passages “There’s Still Gold in Those Hills” and “Letters from a Gold Miner” are both about the history of gold mining. Explain how the passages help the reader understand the history and process of gold mining in the United States. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from BOTH passages to support your answer.

Sample I

Both of these passages bring something different to the table but to get all the information you need to read both of them. The first passage “There’s still gold in those hills” gives the reader a lot of information on the history of gold mining and how to pan for gold. In the second passage “Letters for a gold miner though gives information on the process of mining for gold. In the first passage it talks about the Gold Rush’s start in 1849 in almost all of the Western states. It then continued to explain that the mining operations are long over but that there is still gold out there. In the second passage talks mainly about the process of gold mining. It says that first they find a good spot to start mining then they start out by digging for the gold. After that they go on to panning for it. There are three ways discussed in the letter for panning the first is using a pan, second a cradle and the last way discussed is the tom. So in short depending on what you want to know will tell you what passage you want, for the process of mining for gold you want “Letters from a gold miner”, for how to pan for gold though you want “There’s still gold in these hills.”

Sample I Annotation

Score: 2

This response demonstrates partially effective analysis of text, use of evidence, and writing skills. The response addresses some parts of the task and demonstrates a partial understanding of text. Explicit ideas from both texts are partially analyzed and linked to the prompt. Relevant evidence from both texts partially supports this analysis. The response is focused and includes a partially effective introduction, body, and conclusion. The response occasionally uses precise word choice and vocabulary from the text. Use of paraphrasing and quoting are partially effective. Errors in conventions do not interfere with meaning.

Prompt: The passages “There’s Still Gold in Those Hills” and “Letters from a Gold Miner” are both about the history of gold mining. Explain how the passages help the reader understand the history and process of gold mining in the United States. Write a well-organized response using specific evidence from BOTH passages to support your answer.

Sample J

These passages help the reader understand the history and process of gold mining in the U.S because it gives the reader facts. It helps the reader understand what gold miners did in order to find gold. Gold was found in all 50 states but was more common in the west because the metal gets washed out of the mountains by water , as the passage states. The passage says that with much luck the gold can be found in nugget form but is most likely to be flakes. Gold gets trapped deep down along the banks where the creek bends or might also be found immediately down stream of a boulder or rock formation the passage states.

As the passage states , that if there is any grease or oil it has to be removed from the pan. If there is anything slick on the pan or even oil from a persons fingers the flakes of gold will be washed out. Heat the pan on a fire or stove to remove the oil. Then you dig up a shovel of gravel from the stream and put it in the pan. Then dip the pan into the stream and allow the water to soak the material. Shake the pan to let the heavier bits settle at the bottom. The pan is slightly tipped so that leaves and such fall out. Then the seeker will removed the remaining rocks and gravel but don’t use your hands. The passage says it’s best to use a stick.

Unless the seeker spies a nugget in the pan , the seeker should add more water. Then swish material in the pan in a slow , circular movement. Gold miners hope to see left behind are flakes of gold. They can be tiny or large specks. People can be tricked by the matter that twinkles like crystal. The material is known as “ fools gold “. It is a worthless material. Anyway , the passage states that tweezers can be used to take out the authentic gold flakes.

In the letter it states that they hired an ox team to carry their stuff. This letter helps the reader understand what the person went through and what they experienced on their way to mine for gold in another place. It also states that the box or trough is about 8 to 9 feet long , 10 inches wide and 5 to 6 inches high with an iron sieve in one end and punched with ½ inch holes. Underneath this is placed a ripple or box with 2 ripples across it. The tom is then placed in an oblique position , then the water is brought on by the means of a hose. Dirt , stone , clay and all is thrown in and stirred with a shovel until the water runs clean , the gold and fine gravel goes through the sieve then falls in under the box and lodges about the ripples. The letter states that 3 men wash all day without taking this out as the water washes the loose gravel over and all the settles on the bottom.

Sample J Annotation

Score: 2

This response demonstrates partially effective analysis of text, use of evidence, and writing skills. The response addresses some parts of the task and demonstrates a partial understanding of text by directly addressing the prompt and providing text summary as evidence. Explicit ideas from both texts are partially analyzed and linked to the prompt. Relevant evidence from both texts partially supports this analysis. The response is focused and includes a partially effective introduction and body, a conclusion is absent. As much of the body is summary/rephrasing of the text, an appropriate organizational pattern is only partially demonstrated. The response occasionally uses precise word choice and vocabulary from the text. Use of paraphrasing and quoting are partially effective. Errors in conventions seldom interfere with meaning.