**Subject area/course**: English/Language Arts

**Grade level/band**: 10

**Task source**: Inquiry by Design; Stanford Center for Assessment, Learning, and Equity; Author: Dennie Wolf

**Growing up in New York City**

**STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS**

1. **Task context**:

It isn’t easy to grow up in a major metropolitan area like New York City. Perhaps you can imagine some of the difficulties that children face in such a large city. You may not live in a very large city, but learning about the experiences that people face in another place or time can help you to put your own life into perspective.

For this task, you are going to read some historical documentation about what life in New York City was like in the past, and you will conduct some research to find out how children live in New York City now. With your teacher’s help, you will choose a topic such as poverty, safety, or education to study in more depth. Your goal is to understand what it is like to live in New York City today.

1. **Final product**:

After researching the life of students in New York City, write an argumentative paper of approximately 500 words in which you take a clear position about how well young people are doing in New York City today. You may choose to argue that:

* Young people in New York City are doing well.
* Young people in New York City are struggling.
* The picture is mixed. In some ways young people in New York are doing well; in other ways they are struggling.

**Additional Information**

1. **Knowledge and skills you will need to demonstrate on this task:**

You will need to:

* Take a clear position.
* Make precise claim(s) or points that support your position.
* Use ideas and specific quotes from your reading and discussions as evidence to support your argument.
* Address the questions that readers with a different point of view might have about what you are saying.
* Organize your essay using words, phrases, and clauses to show how the parts of your argument are related.
* Use a formal style and objective tone.
* Provide a conclusion that summarizes your argument and helps your readers to think about one or more concrete changes that would make New York City a better place to grow up.
1. **Materials needed:**

Your teacher will provide some documents for you to read. You will need to research current day information in order to know how young people are doing in New York City.

Use a computer to type your final essay.

1. **Time requirements:**

You will have up to two weeks to complete this assignment, depending on the schedule that your teacher provides.

1. **Scoring:**

Your work will be scored using the SCALE ELA Research or Argumentation Rubric (Gr 10). You should make sure you are familiar with the language that describes the expectations for proficient performance.