

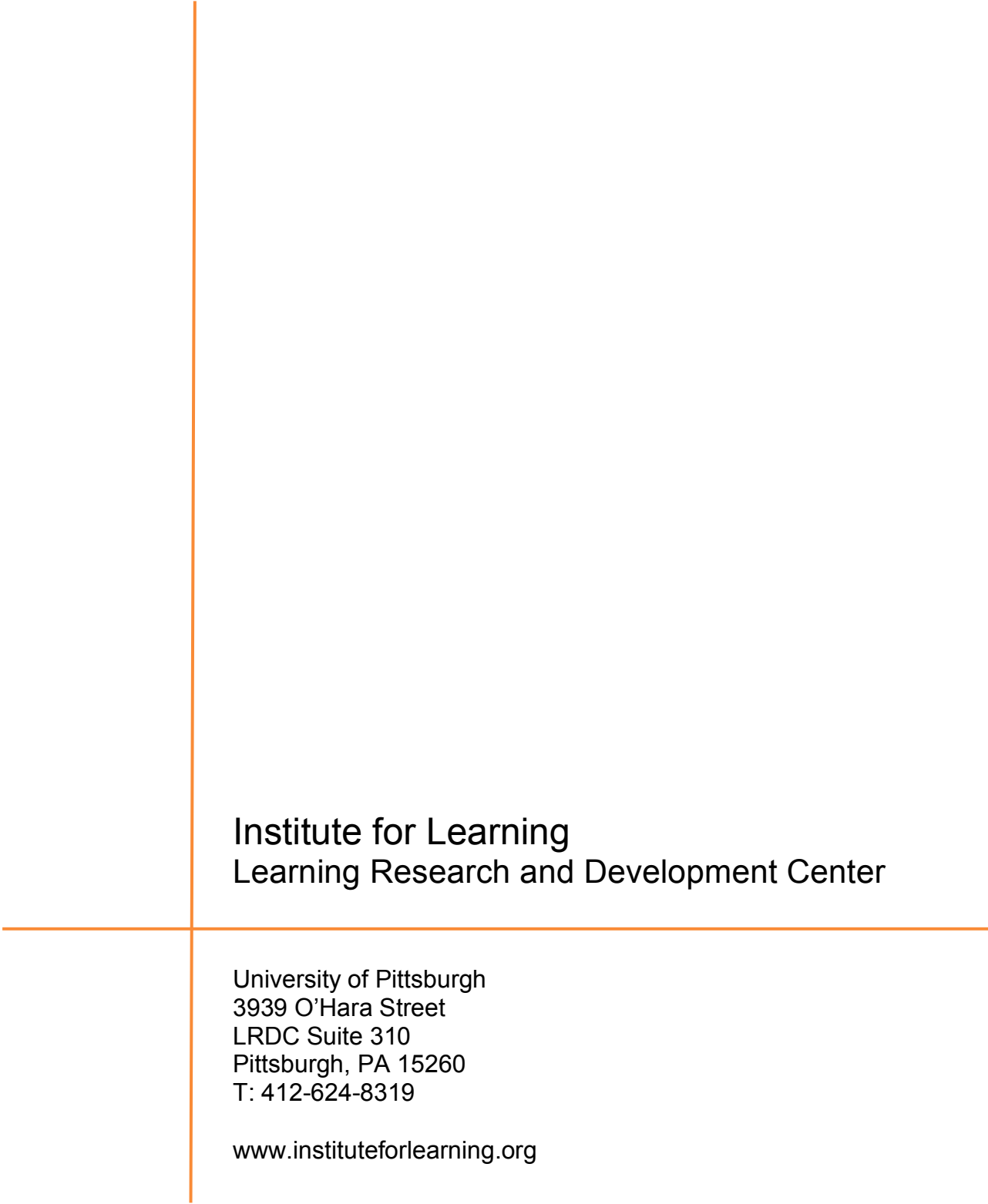
WRITING RESEARCH SIMULATION TASK:

ASSESSMENT ITEMS

GRADES
9-10

SUPPORTING RIGOROUS
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS
TEACHING AND LEARNING

STUDENT VERSION

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Research Simulation Task Introduction

During this assessment, you will read three texts about Steve Jobs, an American entrepreneur who revolutionized the computer industry. Jobs was the co-founder and two-time chief executive officer of Apple Inc. He also co-founded the hardware and software company NeXT, and Pixar Animation Studios, which released such animated movies as *Toy Story*, *Wall-E*, and *Finding Nemo*. Jobs died of pancreatic cancer on October 5, 2011.

Research Simulation Task Texts

Three texts will be used in this set of assessment items. The print texts are included in the accompanying text packet:

- Text 1: “Tim Cook’s Speech at Steve Jobs Memorial” by Chloe Albanesius
- Text 2: “The Genius of Jobs” by Walter Isaacson
- Text 3: “The Steve Jobs Way” by Jon Katzenbach

Research Simulation Task Assessment Items

Five assessment items have been provided:

- Vocabulary in Text 1
- Analytic Summary of Text 1
- Central Idea in Text 2
- Central Idea in Text 3
- Analysis of Texts 1, 2, and 3

1. Vocabulary

Please read “Tim Cook’s Speech at Steve Jobs Memorial.”¹ Tim Cook, the CEO of Apple, delivered this speech at a memorial for Jobs shortly following his death. After you read, answer the two-part question below.

In his speech, Cook states: “Throughout his life, he said truly profound things. . . .”

Part A

Which is the best definition of **profound** as it is used in the quotation above?

- A. ambitious
- B. diligent
- C. insightful
- D. uncomplicated

Part B

Which phrase from the text best helps the reader understand the meaning of **profound**?

- A. “benchmark for all”
- B. “a guiding light”
- C. “you have to work hard”
- D. “followed the herd”

¹ Albanesius, C. (2011, October 23). Tim Cook’s speech at Steve Jobs memorial. PC Magazine: The Independent Guide to IM-standard Personal Computing. Retrieved from <http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2395161,00.asp>

2. Analytic Summary

After you read “Tim Cook’s Speech at Steve Jobs Memorial,”² determine Cook’s purpose. Write an essay that summarizes and analyzes how he uses rhetoric to advance his purpose. Be sure to cite strong and thorough evidence from the text to support your analysis. Follow the conventions of standard written English. Write your essay in the space provided in the next pages.

You may use this area for notes ONLY. Use the lined pages to write your essay.

² Albanesius, C. (2011, October 23). Tim Cook’s speech at Steve Jobs memorial. PC Magazine: The Independent Guide to IM-standard Personal Computing. Retrieved from <http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2395161,00.asp>

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3. Central Idea

Please read “The Genius of Jobs” by Walter Isaacson.³ After you read, answer the two-part question below.

Part A

Which sentence best states Isaacson’s central idea in “The Genius of Jobs”?

- A. Jobs’ genius rivaled Einstein’s genius.
- B. Jobs’ genius was similar to Franklin’s genius.
- C. Jobs’ genius was largely a result of his intuition.
- D. Jobs’ genius was the result of being a visual thinker.

Part B

Which **three** pieces of evidence from “The Genius of Jobs” convey the central idea you selected in Part A?

- A. “So was Mr. Jobs smart? Not conventionally. Instead, he was a genius. That may seem like a silly word game, but in fact his success dramatizes an interesting distinction between intelligence and genius.”
- B. “Trained in Zen Buddhism, Mr. Jobs came to value experiential wisdom over empirical analysis. He didn’t study data or crunch numbers but like a pathfinder, he could sniff the winds and sense what lay ahead.”
- C. “As Einstein said, ‘Imagination is more important than knowledge.’ Einstein is, of course, the true exemplar of genius.”
- D. “The road to relativity began when the teenage Einstein kept trying to picture what it would be like to ride alongside a light beam.”
- E. “The ability to merge creativity with technology depends on one’s ability to be emotionally attuned to others.”
- F. “When others produced boxy computers with intimidating interfaces that confronted users with unfriendly green prompts that said things like ‘C:\>,’ Mr. Jobs saw there was a market for an interface like a sunny playroom.”
- G. “When [Franklin] invented the battery, he experimented with it to produce sparks that he and his friends used to kill a turkey for their end of season feast.”

³ Isaacson, W. (2011, October 29). The genius of Jobs. The New York Times. Retrieved from <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/30/opinion/sunday/steve-jobs-genius.html?pagewanted=all>

4. Central Idea

Please read “The Steve Jobs Way,”⁴ which develops several central ideas. After you read, complete the three-part item.

Part A

Determine a central idea that is developed by the details of the text. Write your chosen central idea as a sentence in the table on the next page.

Part B

Select three specific details that develop the central idea you determined in Part A. Write the line numbers of these details in the left side of the table.

Part C

Provide a brief analysis of how each detail helps to develop the central idea. Write your three analyses in the right side of the table.

⁴ Katzenbach, J. (2012, Summer). The Steve Jobs way: Leaders can learn a lot from the late Apple CEO, but not all of it should be emulated. *Strategy + Business*, (67). Retrieved from <http://www.strategy-business.com/article/00109?pg=all>

Central Idea (Part A)	
Detail (Part B)	Analysis (Part C)
#1	#1
#2	#2
#3	#3

5. Analysis

You have read three texts that provided you with varying points of view about Steve Jobs.

The three texts are:

- “Tim Cook’s Speech at Steve Jobs Memorial” by Chloe Albanesius
- “The Genius of Jobs” by Walter Isaacson
- “The Steve Jobs Way” by Jon Katzenbach

Write an essay that analyzes how these texts address a related theme or concept about Steve Jobs. Be sure to cite strong and thorough evidence from all three texts to support your analysis. Follow the conventions of standard written English. Write your essay in the space provided in the next pages.

You may use this area for notes ONLY. Use the lined pages to write your essay.

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