

Montana
Comprehensive Assessment
System (MontCAS, Phase 2)
Criterion-Referenced Test (CRT)

COMMON CONSTRUCTED-RESPONSE ITEM RELEASE
READING, GRADE 10



OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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Reading Session 1

This story is about a man who has recently become a widower. Read the story and answer the questions that follow.

Subtraction and Addition

Kristen Kennedy

Joseph was looking out the window of his fourth-floor apartment onto Hamilton Street when he heard the buzzer summoning him to answer. That would be Sheila Baker from the Community Center checking in on him. Since he'd lost his balance and fallen on broken pavement several months ago, the people in his building had gotten social services involved and now they all kept a close watch on him. They'd been watching him ever since Evelyn died, keeping him under a sort of benevolent surveillance. He'd done the same when Ben Fleishman's wife died. Now it was his turn, and he didn't mind the attention. He especially liked it when Sheila came by to see him.

The intercom buzzer interrupted again, which rallied him to lean more of his body weight on the support of his cane. He didn't need to ask who was standing on the streets below wanting to see him, he thought, as he shuffled toward the door. He buzzed Sheila in, unlocked the door, and returned to his desk, where he'd been working all morning on a particularly troublesome mathematical equation.

Even though he always unlocked the door when Sheila arrived, she always made it a point to rap three or four times to announce herself.

"Come on in. You know it's open," Joseph called to her. Sheila's stare met him as he turned to greet her.

"You really should ask who's at your door before you buzz them in, Dr. Seigel."

Her amused concern touched him. "Sheila, please, for the hundredth time, call me Joseph."

"Joseph, you really should ask who's at your door before you buzz them in."

"Fair enough. I'll ask you next time if you're really you."

9 Sheila laughed deeply at this, as she often did at most things he said. She'd made it easy for him to let her in.

"So, what have you been doing this week? Oh, before I forget, remember the Community Center's brunch this weekend."

Joseph answered her dutifully, listing the details of his week, his comings and goings, and describing the equation he'd been struggling with all morning. While he spoke, Sheila casually inspected his apartment. He watched her move determinedly through his two small rooms, quickly scanning the bathroom for signs of disarray, and then returning to the kitchenette to take a quick look inside the refrigerator. 11

"Joseph, it looks like you're low on juice. I'll have the market send some over. Anything else you need?"

"No, Sheila, I'm fine. Some juice would be nice."

"All right, then, juice it is and brunch on Saturday, right? You can catch a ride with Mr. Fleishman and Mrs. Yoeffe."

"I'll be there."

"Good. I'll look forward to seeing you," she said, making her way toward the door. "And keep working on that problem. You'll figure it out. You're probably the only person I know who can."

"I'll keep working on it," he said.

She backed out of the door with a smile and a wave, warning him one more time to check who was at the door before buzzing someone into the building.

He looked forward to seeing her and her family again this weekend. Her daughter Mazie was the spitting image of her mom. Smart, too. One weekend at the Community Center, he had helped Mazie prepare for college entrance exams. She had picked up some fairly sophisticated algebra pretty quickly.

Tutoring Mazie reminded him of how he met his wife. He was a graduate student at the University of Chicago picking up extra money tutoring undergraduates. He met her in the library one night in the late fall after she responded to

his posting in the student union. She was having a hard time with calculus. That was all he knew about her until she walked up to the table where he was working. Her cheeks were flushed after coming in from the cold, and she rubbed her hands hard against her arms to warm herself. He detected the faint smell of chimney smoke and wool.

He smiled as he remembered that—sometimes his memories of his wife were overwhelming, but sometimes they were not so clear. There were times when one memory ran into the next and they all eventually disappeared. When he wanted to remember more, he often found that working on mathematical equations helped him picture and

remember his wife more clearly. Maybe that was because that had been his pattern of work for most of their married life.

Joseph thought about this for quite some time as he looked blankly at the equation he'd been working on all morning. Suddenly, he thought that maybe working on equations was not a good way to spend this day. Today was different. Seeing Sheila reminded him of his loss, but thinking about tutoring reminded him of things that he still could do. He always wanted to remember things about his wife, but he decided he also wanted more things to remember.

“I wonder,” he mused aloud, “if Mazie has any more exams to prepare for.”

22. What does Mazie symbolize in this story? Use specific information from the story to support your answer.

Scoring Guide

Score	Description
4	Response provides an insightful, well-developed explanation of what Mazie symbolizes in the story (see below). The explanation includes specific supporting information from the story.
3	Response provides a general explanation of what Mazie symbolizes in the story. The explanation includes supporting information from the story, but lacks specificity and/or insight.
2	Response provides a partial explanation of what Mazie symbolizes in the story. The explanation includes limited or partially correct supporting information from the story.
1	Response provides a minimum or vague statement about what Mazie symbolizes in the story.
0	Response is incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	No response.

Scoring Notes:

Mazie represents hope for Joseph’s future—he looks forward to something instead of dwelling on his wife’s death. An insightful response will show awareness that Joseph’s intention of tutoring Mazie represents the resolution of the conflict in the story and a turning point in Joseph’s life, as well as “something to do.”

Score Point 4

Sample 1

In this story Joseph is dealing with a great loss and he gets help from many friends. In the grieving process Joseph becomes quite comfortable with his friend Sheila and he likes her presence. On the weekends Joseph meets with Sheila and her family. Mazie is Sheila's daughter, who will soon be going to college. Since Joseph is very intelligent in math, he helps Mazie with her college entrance exams. By helping Mazie and tutoring her, Joseph realizes that tutoring Mazie reminds him of his wife. Joseph loves to think about his wife and remember all of the times they had together, but Joseph also wants new memories.

To Joseph, helping Mazie makes him happy in the sense that he can think of his wife and be happy, but also be with friends and make new memories.

Score Point 4

Sample 2

Mazie symbolizes Joseph's wife. When he start talking about her, he states that he helped her with hard algebra. Then he goes on to say that that's how he met his wife. Mazie could also symbolize 'life' for him. Because she is alive and his wife is dead. In the end of the story when he says "I wonder if Mazie has any more exams to prepare for." means that he wants to do something with his life, that he knows how to do. And helping Mazie brings back memories he had when he was happy. So helping Mazie will make his life happy.

Score Point 3

Sample 1

In this story, Mazie symbolizes the way for Joseph to move on with his life. Tutoring would take his mind off of the loss in his life and help him to remember how to live again. An example of this would be when he says "Seeing Sheila reminds him of his loss, but thinking about tutoring reminds him of things that he still could do."

Sample 2

Mazie symbolizes moving on in life, but still remembering things from the past. Mazie reminds him of his wife. Though he misses his wife, he realizes that there's still a lot that he can do with his life and people that he can help. Helping Mazie with her math will help him move on. Mazie is like a new beginning.

Score Point 2

Sample 1

Mazie reminded Joseph of his wife. When he helped her with her work it reminded him of how him and Evelyn had met. They met in a library late one night and she was having trouble with her calculus so he sat down to help her. Mazie helped him remember his wife.

Sample 2

She is the object in Joe's life that helps him get through his grief. When he helps her with math or anything else it makes him feel important and start to care again. It brings life to him when he can help anyone he knows or even don't know.

Score Point 1

Sample 1

Mazie symbolizes Joseph's wife and how he met his wife. Mazie is who Joseph tutors.

Sample 2

Mazie symbolizes Joseph's wife at a younger age as when they met. He said that she is a spitting image of her mother. And that she reminds him of his wife.

Reading Session 3

This article describes a different type of job interview. Read the article and answer the questions that follow.

Informational Interviewing: Choosing a Career

Have you ever wondered what working at a museum would be like? Are you considering a career in medicine? Or are you still unsure of the career options available to you?

If you've answered yes to any of these questions, then consider a round of informational interviews with people whose jobs you're interested in learning more about. Informational interviews are job and career fact-finding missions. They are meetings you request with people whose work interests you.

In many ways, an informational interview is the best kind of job interview, because **you** get to ask the questions. There's no pressure to perform in the same way as in a traditional job interview. Another plus is that most working professionals welcome the opportunity to talk to others about what they do, so you'll find they're often quite willing to meet with you. All you need to do is ask.

Here are some basic tips for requesting and conducting informational interviews. Use them as a guide. Let your interests and goals shape the specific questions you'd like answered.

Make Contact

- Once you've narrowed down a few potential career paths, conduct a mental inventory of any friends, family members, or acquaintances who may already be working in those fields. If you don't know anyone, then consult the phone book or do a Web search to find local businesses or professional organizations that fit your career interests. You may also want to pay your town or city employment office a visit to generate interview leads.
- Once you've made a list of the businesses or organizations in your area where you'd like to interview, give them a call. Since you'll most

likely speak with a receptionist, tell him or her that you'd like the name and contact information of the person or persons whose role most closely fits the career path you'd like to learn more about.

- Most organizations and businesses have Web sites that provide information on how to contact key staff members. You may e-mail a request for an informational interview, and then follow up with a phone call to finalize the details. Don't be discouraged if your first request isn't answered. Give your contact a week to respond, and then follow up. If you still don't get a response, consider meeting with someone else at the company.

Prepare

- Dress professionally.
- Be on time.
- Treat this meeting as you would a job interview. The contacts you make in the research stage of job hunting may one day be your colleagues or potential employers.
- Make a list of questions you'd like to ask. Let your interests do the talking here. Some good general questions include
 - Tell me about your role here. What's an average day like?
 - What kind of training and education did you need to prepare for this kind of work?
 - What do you like most about your job? What do you like least?
 - What are the greatest challenges you face in this line of work?
 - What opportunities do you have for professional development and advancement?
 - In what direction is this field moving? How can someone just starting out prepare to meet these changes?

- What’s the salary range for careers in this field?
- What sort of skills, interests, and abilities are important to success in this field?
- Where else should I be looking to find information about this industry?
- Who else do you know that I should talk to?
Can you put me in touch with them?

contact offered to put you in touch with a colleague or provide supplemental information, mention that in your note and include a phone number or E-mail address where he or she can get in touch with you. It’s always a good idea to touch on any memorable parts of your conversation—common interests, an amusing anecdote, or a good piece of advice. Doing so shows that you are engaged and serious about your research, as well as polished and sophisticated in your professional interactions.

Follow Up

Within a week of your meeting, send a thank-you note to the person who interviewed you. If your

Checklist for Informational Interview

✓	DO	DON'T
	Be clear and direct	Ask for a job
	Act professionally	Limit your contacts
	Listen attentively	Expect your contact to do all of the talking
	Ask questions	Forget to send a thank-you note
	Analyze information	
	Write a thank-you note	
	Follow up on leads	

For further information on informational interviewing, try the Internet Web links listed below. Each Web link is followed by a brief description of its contents and the Internet address where it can be found.

Quintessential Careers: **Informational Interviewing Tutorial**

Learn the “how-to” basics for one of the most important networking and job-hunting tools available to job-seekers: **informational interviewing**.
www.quintcareers.com/informational_interviewing.html

Informational Interviewing Do’s and Don’ts

A helpful list of do’s and don’ts for your **informational interview**.
www.quintcareers.com/informational_interviewing-dos-donts.html

Career Center—**Informational Interviewing**

Lists the benefits of **informational interviewing**.
Career.Berkeley.edu/CareerExp/InfoInterview.stm

Career Planning

A volunteer **Informational Interviewing** Network that provides employees with a resource to help make thoughtful and informed decisions.
web.mit.edu/hr/careers/infoint.html

72. Identify one job or career that you would like to know more about. Use the information from this article to explain how you could find out as much information as possible about that job or career.

Scoring Guide

Score	Description
4	Response identifies one job or career and provides a fully developed explanation of how the information from the article could help someone find out as much information as possible about that job or career.
3	Response identifies one job or career and provides an explanation of how the information from the article could help someone find out information about that job or career. The explanation lacks some specificity and/or development.
2	Response identifies one job or career and provides a partial explanation of how the information from the article could help someone find information about the job or career. The explanation includes limited or partially correct information from the article.
1	Response gives a minimal or vague statement about a job or career and how the information from the article could help in finding out information.
0	Response is incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	No response.

Scoring Notes:

A fully developed response clearly identifies a job or career and references the three points of conducting an informational interview—Make Contact, Prepare, and Follow Up. The Follow Up should refer to a thank-you note **and/or** ways of finding further information about the job or career.

Score Point 4

Sample 1

I would really like to know about the occupation of a surgeon. The first thing I would do to find out more information about this career would be to set up & plan an informational interview. I would look for local surgeons, or surgeons I know & see if they would be interested in letting me interview them. The next thing I would need to do is come up w/ all the questions I would be interested in knowing. Once I asked all these questions at the interview & found out all that I wanted, I would, of course, send a thank you note. If, in fact, I needed more additional information, I could always search the internet. These ways & methods would prove to be very informative in my quest for career information about a surgeon.

One job I would like to more about is computer animation. One of the first things I would do is conduct a Web Search for information on the career & colleges that offer training in computer animation. Next, I would go through local yellow pages to find a nearby business. I would then contact that business, & set up an informal interview with one of their computer animation artists. Before I went to the interview I would write down some questions I would like answered. During the meeting I would be polite & not expect the professional to run the interview to a point. Finally, after the interview, I would send a thank-you note no later than a week after the interview was conducted. That is how I would find out more information about computer animation.

Score Point 3

Sample 1

A career that I would like to know more about is counseling. To find out how I could become a counselor, and all of the benefits of counseling, I would set up an informational interview with the counselor at my school. There are many questions I could ask her about her job that would help me get to know this career. After interviewing the school counselor I would visit a website on counseling and find out if it is what I really want. When I start my career I want to know as much about it and be completely sure that's what I want to do.

Score Point 3

Sample 2

Identify one job or career that you would like to know more about. I would like to become a doctor. When I am playing with the idea of being a doctor, I want to know if it's right for me. I would set up an informational interview with someone who is a doctor. I would make up a list of questions that I made up. These questions would give me insight as a doctor, so I could see if it's right for me. This information would help me gain knowledge of my career. I would interview a few different doctors. Then I would go on the Internet and see what other information I could find. This would give me the information I need to learn about my career, and decide if my career is right for me.

Score Point 2

Sample 1

A job I would like to know more about is teaching. I could talk to some of my teachers to see how the schooling is and how they feel about it. I could also go on the internet and look up teaching and see what I find.

Sample 2

I would like to learn more about being a psychiatrist. I could have an interview with somebody I know or look up somebody off the internet. When I would set this "interview" up then I would ask them questions that I would be interested in. Also I could use some of the websites.

Score Point 1

Sample 1

Woodwork , Look on the computer for
kind of work.

Sample 2

I would like to learn about business
management and to learn more about that I
should look into it like it says to in the entry.