

Text Dependent Question Types: Informational Text

“RIGHT THERE” QUESTIONS

Ask for explicit information drawn from the text itself: “What does Churchill say to explain why he is so focused on achieving victory?” “What is the *policy* Churchill announces in this speech?”

TEXT STRUCTURE QUESTIONS

Look at how the text and its component parts are arranged: “What words and phrases are used by Churchill to transition from the pessimistic opening to the optimistic ending?”

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY & KEY PHRASES QUESTIONS

Focus on how specific word choices contribute to the meaning of the text: “How does Churchill offer context for what he meant in saying *nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat*?” “What words and phrases from the speech help the reader understand the meaning of *ordeal*?” “Based on the surrounding sentences, what is the meaning of the word *suffered*?”

CLARIFICATION QUESTIONS

Ask for further explanation of particular portions of the text: “How did Churchill justify his decision to *wage war*?” “Explain how Churchill refines the meaning of the word *victory* through his repeated use of it.”

PERFORMANCE TASK: Ask students to utilize the evidence they have collected answering Text Dependent Questions to fashion a written response aligned to Writing Standard 2: “Use what you have learned from your close reading

Sir Winston Churchill, “Blood, Toil, Tears, and Sweat”

I would say to the House as I said to those ministers who have joined this government, I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat. We have before us an ordeal of the most grievous kind. We have before us many, many long months of struggle and of suffering. You ask, what is our policy? I can say: It is to wage war, by sea, land and air, with all our might and with all the strength that God can give us; to wage war against a monstrous tyranny, never surpassed in the dark, lamentable catalogue of human crime. That is our policy. You ask, what is our aim? I can answer in one word: It is victory, victory at all costs, victory in spite of all terror, victory, however long and hard the road may be; for without victory, there is no survival. I take up my task with buoyancy and hope. I feel sure that our cause will not be suffered to fail among men. At this time I feel entitled to claim the aid of all and to say, “Come then, let us go forward together with our united strength.”

PARAPHRASING QUESTIONS

Request condensed summaries of particular passages: “Explain whether or not the phrase *to wage war* is an accurate paraphrase of Churchill’s policy.” “Summarize Churchill’s statement of *our aim* in describing the goals of the nation.”

of Churchill’s speech to craft a formal essay that explains both his rationale for fighting and his attempt to convince others to agree with his *victory at all costs* approach. In your essay consider what evidence Churchill emphasizes and

INFERENTIAL QUESTIONS

Solicit conclusions that stem from evidence within the text but not explicitly stated: “What words and phrases can be used to infer Churchill’s outlook regarding the battles soon to be fought?” “From the body of the text what can logically be deduced regarding Churchill’s outlook regarding his *task*?”

ORGANIZING QUESTIONS

Examine the text and sort information based on relevant criteria: “Compare and contrast sentences starting with *I, you, and we*?” “Churchill’s speech can be logically subdivided into sections. Identify these and explain your rationale for making these divisions.”

SEQUENCE QUESTIONS

Identify and analyze the steps in an explanation or argument: “What steps did Churchill take in his speech to justify the claim signaled by his use of the phrase *Come then*?” “What clues are in his answers for why Churchill started with *our policy* instead of *our aim*?”

PURPOSE QUESTIONS

Investigate the text’s function and deeper meaning: “Use evidence from the speech to analyze why Churchill makes no promises but instead only *hopes and feels* his side will win the war.”

structure your writing to highlight your analysis. Your essay should employ correct English usage and mechanics and include clearly organized ideas, transitional language between sections, and a concluding statement.”