

Performance Task Ideas Based on the Six Facets

Developing Performance Tasks

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Explain</i>	<i>Interpret</i>	<i>Apply</i>	<i>Perspective</i>	<i>Empathy</i>	<i>Self-Knowledge</i>
Social Studies: Pioneer Life	Write letters home describing what pioneer life is <i>really</i> like vs. what you expected.	Read and interpret real-life journals and stories of pioneers (e.g., <i>Sarah Plain and Tall</i>) to infer from vocabulary and images what life was really like.	Create a museum exhibit in which photos and facsimile artifacts tell the story of the hardships of pioneer life.	Stage a debate between settlers and Native Americans on the effects of western settlement.	Write a letter to relatives “back east” describing the death of pioneer neighbors.	“Why Leave Home?” Write on how you have felt or would feel if you had to leave the home you have known.
Friendship	“Who are your true friends? Who are your fair-weather friends?”	Interpret “Spring” in <i>Frog and Toad Are Friends</i> . What does this episode reveal about friendship?	Place an order for a “true friend” from an imaginary Mail-Order Friendship store.	How do others view me as a friend?	Write an essay or journal entry on why some kids always get picked on and what it feels like to be those kids.	Respond to writing prompts - “Do I know who my true friends are?”
History: U. S. Revolutionary War	Write a newspaper editorial in a 1777 newspaper: Was the break with England inevitable?	“What really happened at Lexington?” Analyze the texts and information available to make sense of the war’s opening (facts vs. opinions).		Read a Canadian and French account of the Revolutionary War era. Defend or oppose their use as teaching resources at a simulated school board meeting.	Write a series of simulated letters back and forth between relatives in America and England during the pre-Revolutionary war, war, and post-war era.	Journal writing: “what would I fight for?”
Mathematics: Conic sections	Explain how slicing a cone produces all conic sections and justifies their algebraic formulae.	Analyze various data sets to determine the “best-fit” conic section curve.	Design a “whisper chamber” for a science museum under various logistical constraints, using your knowledge of conic sections.	Conduct experiments with flashlights, conic section cut-outs and shadows to explore how conic sections are formed and how their shapes vary.		
Physics: Electricity	Develop a troubleshooting guide for an electric circuit system.	Assume the role of an electrical sub-contractor: Interpret and analyze the wiring drawings for building a house.	Build a working set of switches for a model railroad layout.	AC or DC? Argue the merits of each type of current for various users.	Create an imaginary diary entry - “A day in the life of an electron.”	
French	Explain the difference between the various forms of past tense, and when they should and should not be used.	Compare French vs. English versions of <i>Le Petit Prince</i> to determine if/how language influences the meaning.	Role play a conversation over the phone (e.g., planning weekend activities for French visitors to your town).		Develop a guide containing lists of colloquialisms and their translations to help French visitors avoid misunderstandings.	Keep a log of your reactions to French customs.