

Name _____ Date _____

Measuring Up Express™ Formative Assessment 9: Explanatory Prompt

- 1 Consider how the following quotation is related to you.

“Today is yesterday’s pupil.”
-- Benjamin Franklin

Write an essay explaining what this quotation means to you. Use details and examples in your essay.

PREWRITING/PLANNING SPACE

You may use the space on this page and page 2 of this assessment to plan your ideas before you begin writing your essay. Then write your essay on the lines on pages 3 and 4.

PREWRITING/PLANNING SPACE

When you finish your planning, turn to the next page.

Measuring Up Express™ Formative Assessments – Grade 8

Prescriptive Answer Guide

The chart below shows the answer to the question, the standard and CPI the question assesses, and which lessons in the Measuring Up Express™ or Measuring Up® worktext to use for test practice and/or extra instruction and support.

Formative Assessment 9 – Explanatory Prompt

Question	Answer	NJ CCCS Standard	CCCS and CPI	References
1	See Sample	3.2 (WRITING)	3.2.8 A.2	Measuring Up Express™ Lessons 28, 29 Measuring Up® Chapter 5, Lessons 23-28

Explanatory Prompt

Included for the Explanatory Prompt writing task are sample responses for each point value on the scoring rubric. Sample responses are based on the New Jersey Registered Holistic Scoring Rubric. Prior to scoring student response, you may copy the New Jersey State Scoring rubric at the back of the worktext as a reference tool.

6-Point Response

Everyone has heard the idea that we should learn from our past. We are told to think about those things that we may have done right and about those things we may have done wrong. In the quotation above, Benjamin Franklin means that we should all be students of yesterday. We should study our successes and our failures so that we can become better people. This will help us avoid making the same mistakes again and help us improve what we have already done right.

Considering the consequences of our actions in the past can definitely help us today. Last month I had a big project that was due in English. Even though I had plenty of time to do it, I kept putting it off, choosing to play video games, watch T.V. or hang out with my friends instead. Before I knew it, it was the night before the big project was due. I hadn't finished reading the book, and I didn't know exactly how I wanted to put the presentation together. Even though I stayed up for hours trying to finish it, the next morning came and I had to present my book even though I was only partially prepared. It was obvious to the teacher and the rest of the class that I had not put as much effort into it as I needed to. As a result, I received a lower grade than I wanted. Since then I have learned that if I get assigned a big project, I need to break it down into smaller goals to accomplish each night. I have used my failure in the past to help me today.

Looking at yesterday also helps us improve what we have already done well. Last fall I came into the cross country season in great shape. I had worked extra hard all summer and followed the coach's training schedule very carefully. All of my teammates were very impressed by my hard work. As a result, I had the best season of my life. This summer my coach and I made another running schedule so that my legs would be as strong, if not stronger, than last fall. I hope to break all of my records from last year. Examining yesterday has helped me prepare to be more successful today and even tomorrow.

Yesterday is probably the best teacher for today. Studying our successes and failures can help us better ourselves and our world that we live in. Those people who

choose to only live in the present miss out on those important lessons that history can teach us and chance revisiting their same mistakes in the future.

5-Point Response

People should learn from their past. In Benjamin Franklin's quote, he means that we should all learn from yesterday. This will help us be better people because we won't make the same mistakes again and we will improve upon those things that we have done right.

I know that I have definitely used what I have learned in the past to avoid making the same mistakes. Last month I had a big, big English project. However, I procrastinated by doing everything except for my English project. The night before the project, I tried to throw it together even though I hadn't finished the book or really thought about how I wanted the presentation to go. The next day my presentation did not go well, and I did not receive the grade that I wanted. Now when I receive a big project, I make sure that I do not wait until the last minute to complete it. I learned my lesson yesterday and do not want to learn it again today, tomorrow, or anytime soon.

Looking at the past also helps me to identify those choices that had positive consequences. Last summer I trained really hard for cross country, so I had a much better season than I had ever had before. I definitely wanted to repeat that decision this summer so that I could try to break my personal records again this cross country season. From the past I learned that this was definitely a good decision with positive consequences.

We can definitely learn so much by looking at our past. We can choose to learn those lessons from the past today or come face to face with them again tomorrow.

4-Point Response

Benjamin Franklin says in this quote that everyone should learn from their mistakes. Today is yesterday's student because the past can teach people a lot about the way that they need to act in the future. I think that learning from your own mistakes is very important.

One way I have learned from my mistakes is with school. In the past I used to procrastinate on every school project. However, one time I was given a big English project, and I put it off until the night before. In the end it did not turn out well, so now I know that I shouldn't do that. Now I try to start the project way before it is do. I have learned from my mistake.

I also know that looking at the past can help a person see what they have done right. I have always run a lot during the summer time so that I am ready for cross country season in the fall. As a result, I am one of the best runners on the team. I even beat our top runner during one race last year. This year I hope to place in even more races than last year. The past tells me that all of my hard work pays off.

Benjamin Franklin was right when he said that the past is a good teacher for the present. The world would be a better place if everyone learned from his or her mistakes.

3-Point Response

Benjamin Franklin said that today is a good pupil for yesterday because he wants everyone to learn from their mistakes. I know that I have tried to learn from my mistakes, so this quote means a lot to me.

I used to get lower grades, because I did not study as much as I should have. However, after I had some meetings with a few of my teachers I realized that I needed to write down my homework assignments so that I could remember what I needed to do each night. Now I get better grades, because I learned from my past. It is important to learn your lesson so that you don't keep making the same mistake over and over again.

But some things you may be doing right. The past can tell you this. For example, I like to run cross country each fall. Every summer I run many miles to prepare for the season. Each year I get better and better, because I train over the summer. So the past helps me know that I am doing something right. So I should keep doing it.

2-Point Response

You should probably learn from the past like you would learn from a teacher. Teachers can help students learn things that they didn't know before. They can help teach students right from wrong. The past can help teach you like a teacher would do. You might learn how to study better, or get better grades. If you listen to the past. You might be able to do things that you never thought you could do before. For example. You might learn from the past how to be a better sports player. Maybe you could even make varsity.

It is important to learn from the past so that you can be a better person. Everyone should be the past's pupil.

1-Point Response

The past can be like a teacher. Today could be like a pupil. Or student. You just have to learn from the past by looking at mistakes. Mistakes could be good. If you learn from them. Like how to be a good student. But if you don't. You learn the same mistake over, and over again. So learn from the past. Its you're future. Depends on it