



**NEW ENGLAND
COMMON ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

**Released Items
2007**

**Grade 11
Writing**

Writing

Response to Informational Text

The passage used in this prompt is taken from *Measure Twice, Cut Once—Lessons From a Master Carpenter* (pp. 9–11) by Norm Abram (1996, Little, Brown and Company, New York, ISBN 0-316-00494-4). Due to copyright restrictions, we are unable to reprint the passage in this document.

In the passage, Abrams describes how he learned carpentry skills by working with his father as a teenager. Abrams’s introduction to carpentry was gradual, depending largely upon observation and experimentation. He was hired to work on the crew that his father supervised, but he was not given special treatment. Abrams progressed from being a carpenter’s helper to handling solo projects. He thinks the way he learned carpentry helped him develop an attitude of pride and discipline in his work.

What do you think of the way Norm Abram learned his skills? How does it compare with the way you learn? Use details from the passage to support your response.

Use the questions in the box below to organize your writing. You can answer the questions **before** you write to plan your response or **after** you write to check your response. At this grade level, your answers will **not** be included as part of your score.

Planning/Review Box Questions

- ❶ What is the focus/controlling idea of your response?
- ❷ What are the supporting details/references to the text in your response?
- ❸ How does your response connect the text to the broader world?

A **complete** response to the prompt will include

- a clear purpose/focus;
- coherent organization;
- details/elaboration;
- well-chosen language and a variety of sentence structures; and
- control of conventions.

- ❹ What do you think of the way Norm Abram learned his skills? How does it compare with the way you learn? Use details from the passage to support your response.

Grade 11 Writing Released Item Information

Released Item Number	1
Content Strand	Response to Informational Text
GSE Codes	10-1, 10-2, 10-3, 10-9
Depth of Knowledge Code	3
Item Type	Extended Response
Total Possible Points	12