



**NEW ENGLAND  
COMMON ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

**Released Items  
2008**

**Grade 11  
Writing**

# Writing

## Report

*A student wrote this fact sheet about life 12,000 years ago, at the end of the last ice age. Read the fact sheet. Then write a response to the prompt that follows.*

### **Everyday Life at the End of the Last Ice Age**

- people lived in bands of about 25 members
- lived mainly by hunting and gathering
- shared decision-making fairly equally among members in a band
- each person skilled in every type of job
- diet: small and large mammals, fish, shellfish, fruits, wild greens and vegetables, grains, roots, and nuts
- approximately 10,000 years ago woolly mammoth became extinct
- nomadic based on time of year or movement of animal herds
- cooked meat by roasting it on a spit over a fire or by boiling it inside a piece of leather secured by a twig
- gathered herbs
- made everything themselves: tools, homes, clothing, medicines, etc.
- worked about 2–3 hours a day getting food
- worked about 2–3 hours a day making and repairing tools and clothes
- spent remainder of day relaxing with family and friends
- told stories, danced, sang, and played games
- owned very few possessions
- no concept of rich or poor
- communicated through art (painting and sculpture) and the spoken word
- buried their dead and had concepts of religion and an afterlife
- sometimes adorned themselves with ornaments and decorations such as jewelry, tattoos, body painting, and elaborate hairstyles

- ① What would a person from 12,000 years ago find familiar and/or different about life today? Select relevant information from the fact sheet and use your own knowledge to write a report.

**Before writing, consider**

- *the focus/thesis of your report*
- *the supporting details in your report*
- *the significance of the information in your report*

**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
- control of conventions

## Grade 11 Writing Released Item Information

<b>Released Item Number</b>	1
<b>Content Strand</b>	Informational Writing
<b>GSE Codes</b>	10-1, 10-6, 10-7, 10-8, 10-9
<b>Depth of Knowledge Code</b>	3
<b>Item Type</b>	Writing Prompt
<b>Answer Key</b>	
<b>Total Possible Points</b>	12