

## **Nonfiction Passage for Selected and Constructed Response Questions**

Priority and Supporting Standards:

By the end of grade 10, students will read and comprehend literary nonfiction at the high end of the grades 9-10 text complexity band independently and proficiently (10.R.I.10), according to Unit 5.

Students will develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose or audience. (Editing for conventions should demonstrate command of Language standards 1-3 up to and including grades 9-10.) (10.W.5), according to Unit 6.

Students will integrate multiple sources of information presented in diverse media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) evaluating the creditability and accuracy of each source (10.S.L.2)

This assessment fits three units of study:

Analyzing and Using Varied Crafts and Structures (Unit 5)

Extending Ideas and Presenting Meaning (Unit 6)

Connecting and Integrating Knowledge and Ideas (Unit 7)

# ***Long Lines Form at Polling Places as Displaced Residents Find Ways to Vote***

By David M. Halbfinger, Thomas Kaplan and Wendy Ruderman

People whose lives were upended by Hurricane Sandy joined other voters on Tuesday to cast ballots after elected officials in New York and New Jersey scrambled to relocate scores of polling places that had become unusable because of power failures, flooding or evacuations..

Though the region hit by Hurricane Sandy is not expected to be in play in the presidential election, the combination of the storm and heavy morning turnout yielded long lines, confusion, frustration and anger. At several polling sites in New York City the vote scanning machines being used for the first time in a presidential election malfunctioned, forcing workers to resort to paper ballots and slowing the process even more.

Randy Harter, 66, an artist and designer, voted in New Rochelle, in Westchester County, where his frustration at what he described as an incompetent government response to the storm had transformed into frustration with his voting experience.

When Mr. Harter asked an election worker for help to fill out a paper ballot he had never seen before, he was told: “Just fill it out.” When his ballot was inserted, the machine jammed. A second machine also jammed. He eventually was given an envelope in which to place a ballot that would be hand-counted. The entire voting experience took 45 minutes, Mr. Harter said.

On the Upper West Side of Manhattan, hundreds of voters waited on the sidewalk and packed into a gym at Public School 163. Voters had to wait in different lines to determine their election district, to get a ballot, to fill out the ballot and to get the ballot scanned. The process took an hour. There was no help for the disabled, and people grew increasingly upset.

Officials tried to make the process work smoothly especially for those living in areas hard hit by the hurricane.

New Jersey and New York both said they would allow voters uprooted by Hurricane Sandy to cast provisional ballots anywhere in their states.

“Just because you’re displaced doesn’t mean you should be disenfranchised,” Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo of New York said in announcing the step on Monday.

But the provisional ballots would, in many cases, allow residents to vote only in statewide contests and in the presidential election, in which President Obama is heavily favored in both states. The ballots could not be used in local and Congressional races, which in some areas are far more competitive.

New Jersey went further, saying it will let displaced voters vote by fax or e-mail. Ballot-integrity advocates warned that this raised risks of fraud by hackers, or mischief by partisan local officials because electronic ballots lack secrecy and are not safeguarded by witnesses.

Across the storm-damaged region on Monday, bleary-eyed, disheveled residents drove long distances and waited in long lines at government offices to cast early ballots, and many said voting felt like an important step back toward normalcy.

On Tuesday, the line to vote at an East Village polling station extended half a block down First Avenue and rapidly built westward on Ninth Street. By 8:40 a.m. at least 175 people were patiently reading papers, manipulating smartphones and drinking coffee, advancing not even a foot a minute.

Alex Schroder, 23, said she hoped it would be no longer than an hour, because she had to get to her job as a preschool teacher.

“I am really excited to vote,” she said, “so I don’t mind waiting.” She said that she really wanted Mr. Obama to win, and that the issues in this election — women’s roles, economics, gay rights, the environment — were deeply important to her.

In Forest Hills, Queens, Ann Dichter, 63, said she had never seen as busy a polling place in her 10-plus years there as she did Tuesday. Asked what was on her mind this day, she began a tirade against one of the presidential candidates, then stopped and summed up her mind-set thusly: “Women’s rights.” In New York, there are very tight Congressional or legislative races in Queens, on Staten Island, on Long Island and in Westchester County, all of which were hit hard by the storm. Candidates in those races went to great lengths to ensure that their supporters could surmount the extraordinary obstacles to voting this year.

*Reporting was contributed by Joseph Berger, Christine Hauser, Andrea Kannapell and Michael Paulson.*

**Grade 10**

**Selected Response Questions – Nonfiction**

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1. What does the word “upended” mean as used in the opening paragraph?
  - a. changed
  - b. impacted
  - c. influenced
  - d. disrupted
2. Based on information in the article, what inference can be made about Mr. Harter’s experience voting?
  - a. It was smooth
  - b. It was frustrating.
  - c. It was not what he expected.
  - d. It was efficient.
3. What do the words “provisional ballots” mean as used repeatedly in the article?
  - a. Ballots that can be used only in local and Congressional races
  - b. Ballots that can be used to vote for the presidential election only
  - c. Ballots that allow voters to vote in district for president and statewide contests
  - d. Ballots that allow voters to vote anywhere for president and statewide contests
4. Based on information in the story, what conclusion can be made about voting?
  - a. Time, effort and patience was needed to vote in 2012.
  - b. Extraordinary obstacles prevented many from voting.
  - c. Displaced voters could place their votes by email.
  - d. Disabled people received no help when waiting in line.
5. What relationship does the title have with the content? It explains that:
  - a. Hurricane Sandy created long lines plus displaced people from their homes.
  - b. Despite obstacles, people were able to cast their votes.
  - c. Hurricane Sandy created an enormous amount of frustration for voters.
  - d. Despite being displaced, people were unable to vote smoothly.

6. What effect does the third person point of view have on the article?
  - a. It attempts to offer a biased opinion.
  - b. It provides insight into the author's motives
  - c. It attempts to offer a non-biased presentation of facts.
  - d. It provides details about a college opportunity beneficial to all.
7. Why did the author include personal anecdotes from people?
  - a. To show the detailed experiences of individual voters
  - b. To show how many people endured long lines
  - c. To show the obstacles people overcame from Hurricane Sandy
  - d. To show that most people have the same, collective experience
8. What does the word "disheveled" mean as used in the article?
  - a. tired
  - b. homeless
  - c. untidy
  - d. dirty

## **Grade 10**

### **Constructed Response Questions - Nonfiction**

9. Analyze the advantages and disadvantages of allowing voters to "vote by fax or email." Cite the article for evidence—use both direct and indirect citations in your answer. Include at least three reasons for each.
10. Support, refute or qualify the idea of allowing voters to vote by fax or email rather than the traditional method of in-person ballots. Utilize at least three valid sources in addition to the New York Times article as evidence for your opinion.