

## **Mahatma Gandhi's Decision to Take Action**

Mahatma Gandhi didn't have to walk endless miles or go without eating for days. He didn't need to risk going to prison to help others. But he did. He strongly believed that all people should be treated fairly, and he was willing to sacrifice to help them.

When Gandhi was born in India, the country had a strong caste system. People fortunate enough to be born into a rich family remained rich. Likewise, people born poor remained poor. They had very little chance to improve their lives. Further, poor people were not treated the same as the wealthy.

Gandhi came from a wealthy upper-class family. His father was the chief minister of the town where they lived. Gandhi could have been satisfied being part of a wealthy caste. However, when Gandhi was a young lawyer in South Africa, he saw how unfairly the poor in that country were treated. Gandhi felt strongly that this was wrong and decided to stand up for them. He opened a special law office to help end this mistreatment. When that didn't work, he helped organize peaceful protest marches. These marches helped get many laws changed that improved the lives of the poor.

This experience affected Gandhi greatly. It became his passion to see that all people were treated fairly. He decided to change the caste system in India. He also wanted to stop the mistreatment of Indians by the British government (Great Britain controlled India at that time). Just as he had in South Africa, Gandhi organized nonviolent protests throughout India. He called on officials to change how people were treated. His efforts angered the government, and Gandhi was arrested several times. However, he refused to stop working on behalf of the poor. His strong commitment helped win greater rights for the lower castes and for women. He also helped convince the government to give aid to the poor. His efforts eventually led to the creation of the nation of India.

Gandhi's passion to see people treated fairly helped improve the lives of people in both South Africa and India. By pursuing his passion, he made a great difference in their lives.

## Jane Addams—Making a Difference

During the late 1800s, Hull House in Chicago wasn't just a house. It was an entire complex. In one building, older children met for afterschool clubs. In another, families collected food for evening meals. Across a playground, some children swam in an indoor pool while others played sports in a gymnasium. There was also a library, an art gallery, a theater, a music room, and an office where adults could connect with new jobs. It was a haven, dedicated to helping people in the inner city find a better life, and it all came to be because of the vision of one woman: Jane Addams.

Jane Addams was the daughter of a successful businessman. As a young woman, Addams struggled with various health issues, including a spinal defect that made it difficult for her to be active. However, Addams did not let these problems slow her down. She earned a college degree and began traveling, searching for how she could make a difference with her life.

While in London, Addams visited a settlement house. It was established in a poor area in order to help residents there. Suddenly, her goal became clear. Addams and a friend went to Chicago and leased an abandoned building. They cleaned it up, called it Hull House, and in 1889 began providing services to immigrants who lived nearby. Addams could have found a comfortable job, but she chose the difficult life of helping those less fortunate.

Addams nursed the sick, cared for children while their mothers worked, and provided education for all ages. She gave speeches to the wealthy in order to raise money and gather volunteers. She also wrote eleven books about social issues and helped get child labor laws passed.

Over the years, Hull House expanded across the entire block. It provided hope and help to thousands of immigrants as they struggled to make new lives in a large city.

In 1931, Addams was honored with the Nobel Peace Prize. Her work for those who could not help themselves not only changed their lives, but also brought these issues to the attention of the world. The life of Jane Addams truly made a difference.

## ITEM 5: EXTENDED WRITING-RESPONSE

### WRITING TASK

There are some people in this world who stand out because they care deeply and are passionate about their work. Now that you have read about Mahatma Gandhi and Jane Addams, think about them and others you may know about who have made sacrifices for their beliefs or passions.

Think about the ideas in the passages, and then write an **informational/explanatory essay** in your own words about how pursuing individual passions can have a positive impact on others.

Be sure to use information from BOTH passages in your **informational/explanatory essay**.

### Writer's Checklist

#### Be sure to:

- Introduce the topic clearly, provide a focus, and organize information in a way that makes sense.
- Use information from the two passages so that your essay includes important details.
- Develop the topic with facts, definitions, details, quotations, or other information and examples related to the topic.
- Identify the passages by title or number when using details or facts directly from the passages.
- Develop your ideas clearly and use your own words, except when quoting directly from the passages.
- Use appropriate and varied transitions to connect ideas and to clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.
- Use clear language and vocabulary.
- Establish and maintain a formal style.
- Provide a conclusion that supports the information presented.
- Check your work for correct usage, grammar, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.

**Now write your informational/explanatory essay on your answer document. Refer to the Writer's Checklist as you write and proofread your essay.**

## 5. Writing Task (Write your essay here.)

### Be sure to:

- Introduce the topic clearly, provide a focus, and organize information in a way that makes sense.
- Use information from the two passages so that your essay includes important details.
- Develop the topic with facts, definitions, details, quotations, or other information and examples related to the topic.
- Identify the passages by title or number when using details or facts directly from the passages.
- Develop your ideas clearly and use your own words, except when quoting directly from the passages.
- Use appropriate and varied transitions to connect ideas and to clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.
- Use clear language and vocabulary.
- Establish and maintain a formal style.
- Provide a conclusion that supports the information presented.
- Check your work for correct usage, grammar, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.

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## Scoring Guide

### Item 5 Information

<b>Standards:</b> ELAGSE6W2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content. ELAGSE6L1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of Standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking. ELAGSE6L2. Demonstrate command of the conventions of Standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.	<b>Item Depth of Knowledge: 4</b> Extended Thinking Student conducts an investigation, needs time to think and process multiple conditions of the problem or task.
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