

Answers to Exercise 2.4

Designing Assessment Tasks for Learning Goals

1. *Students will be able to use knowledge of prefixes, suffixes, and roots to spell words.*

Sample assessment: Use the provided lists of prefixes, suffixes, and roots to assemble a word.

2. *Students will explain the rules and strategies of a team game.*

Sample assessment: We have been studying the sport of basketball. Following is a set of statements about the rules of the game. Identify each statement as either true or false. The last question outlines a specific scenario common to the sport. Outline the strategy you would use in that situation to win the game.

3. *Students will explain how an organism's behavior is related to the physical characteristics of its environment.*

Sample assessment: We have been studying the Arctic and Antarctic climates and the animals that live there. Provide a brief description of the climate, and then choose your favorite of the animals we have studied. How does this animal get its food, and how is this related to the environment in which it lives?

4. *Students will illustrate how food works as an energy source.*

Sample assessment: Using the diagram of the human body provided, create a flowchart illustrating how food is digested and used as energy.

5. *Students will be able to create and separate a simple mixture such as salt and sand.*

Sample assessment: Use the container provided to mix two of the substances in front of you. Keep in mind when making your mixture that you will also have to separate the substances back into pure form.

6. *Students will be able to analyze a speaker's presentation with an eye for logical fallacy.*

Sample assessment: We will be giving class presentations in the next few days. When another student is speaking, take notes on his or her main points in the order of presentation. When the speech is finished, you will have a few moments to look over your notes and write a brief review of the speech. Please include your thoughts on the logic of the argument presented and why it did or did not convince you.

7. *Students will describe the articles and amendments of the Constitution of the United States.*

Sample assessment: We have been studying the articles and amendments of the Constitution of the United States. Choose an article or amendment you consider to be important in today's society and write a brief description of what you think would change if that article or amendment had never been drafted.

8. *Students will be able to determine cause and effect of historical events in the exploration of the Americas.*

Sample assessment: We have been studying the discovery and exploration of the Americas. Provide a brief description of the lives and cultures of people native to the United States and what happened to these people as a result of the age of European exploration. Name two specific events, and explain why they exemplify the cause-and-effect relationship of the Native Americans to the European explorers and pilgrims.

9. *Students will be able to generate a hypothesis or a prediction based on an observation.*

Sample assessment: Today we will watch four chemical reactions involving three chemicals. Write down what you see as we go along. At the end of class, I will give you the names of two chemicals. Think about these chemicals and how they are different from and similar to the chemicals we saw in reactions during class. Make a prediction about how these two chemicals will react, and explain your reasoning.

10. *Students will determine the main idea and supporting details of an expository text.*

Sample assessment: Read the following excerpt. Write a few sentences describing what the main idea is, and name at least two supporting details you found in the text.