English Language Arts 1 and 2
Grades 9–10
Passage Booklet

Practice Test
2016–2017
Grade 10
English Language Arts 2
(Read this caption to Students with Visual Impairments Only.)
This is a picture of a boy talking on a phone and writing on a piece of paper. A computer is in front of him.
The Lost E-mail

1 Denny was upset. He had e-mailed himself his homework assignment from school. Now, at home, he couldn’t get online.

2 Mrs. Diaz, Denny’s mom, couldn’t get the computer to work either. “What am I going to do?” Denny asked her. “I need to open my e-mail to do my homework!”

3 “Could you go to the library and get it?” asked Mrs. Diaz.

4 “The library is closed on Wednesday nights,” Denny pointed out.

5 “What about that Internet cafe on Walnut Street?”

6 “It went out of business,” Denny moaned.

7 Just then, Denny’s father called. He lived three thousand miles away in California. Denny took the phone and began to explain his problem. “It’s getting late here and I absolutely have to have this assignment done first thing tomorrow morning.”

8 In the background, Mrs. Diaz heard Denny say his username and password. Then she watched him get a notebook and a pencil. For five minutes, he wrote steadily, the phone to his ear. “Got it! Thanks, Dad,” Denny said at last.

9 Mrs. Diaz glanced at the notebook in Denny’s hand. “Even with the Internet,” she said with a smile, “a pencil and paper come in handy sometimes.”
(Read this caption to Students with Visual Impairments Only.)

This is a picture of a bird next to a plastic bag.
Plastic Bag Problems

1 Plastic bags are a major source of pollution. Plastic bags are easy to use. They are also easy to throw away. People need to think about what happens to plastic bags after they use them. By some estimates, Americans alone throw away one billion plastic bags a year. That’s a lot of plastic!

2 Many plastic bags end up in the ocean, where marine mammals, birds, and sea turtles mistake them for food. Plastic bags sink to the bottom of the ocean and cover up the feeding areas of shrimp, crabs, and other sea creatures. When plastic bags begin to decay, fish eat the toxic particles.

3 You can use fewer plastic bags by taking your own reusable bags to the store. Some stores offer reusable bags for purchase. The less plastic waste you create, the better for the oceans and for the creatures that live in them.
(Read this caption to Students with Visual Impairments Only.)
This is a picture of three students. They are wearing similar shirts and pants.
Dress for Success?

1  Our school has a new motto: “Dress for Success!” You can see the motto in the hallways and classrooms. This motto is meant to build support for our new school uniform. Starting next month, every student must wear a blue shirt and tan pants to school.

2  School uniforms will not lead to success at our school. Why does the school want to force everyone into uniforms? We’re all different. We come in different colors, shapes, and sizes. That’s a good thing. Why should we all dress the same?

3  I like bright colors. I like T-shirts with designs on them. I like shorts and different styles of pants. I wear different clothes each day. Often they show how I feel.

4  Some people believe wearing uniforms will lead to better grades. They say that students won’t have to spend time worrying about their clothing at school. But wearing a uniform won’t make a student study harder. Other people say uniforms will make everyone be friends. Will students in uniforms suddenly get along better just because they look the same? There’s no proof for that either.

5  A blue shirt and tan pants are boring. It’s like a blank sheet of paper or an empty box. Uniforms will make school less interesting. Uniforms take away students’ rights to wear clothing that is comfortable for them and shows their style. How can that be a success?