



ELA/Literacy
Released Item 2016

Grade 6
Conventions

Sample Student Responses
(from 1 released task)

Conventions Anchor Set A1 – A4

With Annotations

This idea is developed differently in "Miss Me?" and "Croc Fossil Found in Cave." because in "Miss Me?" Marjorie Courtenay-Latimer caught a fish that stuck out more than the others. Scientists have been saying that the fish, the coelacanth, was a creature that had been extinct for 65 million years. This was the first one ever caught, as early as 1938. So, when she described and drew the fish in a letter she sent to a scientist, Dr. J. L. B. Smith, said "a bomb seemed to burst inside my brain." after he saw her letter. He realized how closely the fish described in the letter resembled fossils he had seen of the fish. Since then 175 more have been caught and studied. Scientist even study these fish in their natural habitat. When David Noble, found trees he didn't recognize in a small rainforest, he broke off leaves and some branches to bring them to somebody who could help him identify the trees he had found. The scientist that he showed them to were astounded, they only knew the trees as 2-million-year-old fossils. Today fewer than 100 of these pines exist. People are now making sure to plant more in different places in order for it to survive.

This Idea develops differently in "Croc Fossil Found In Cave." because in the Dominican Republic there were fresh water caves that had been mostly un-explored until now, some research divers recently uncovered an unexpectedly large variety of fossil remains of extinct species of animals. Including crocodiles this discovery is said to turn a page in paleontology history in the Caribbean, especially because crocodiles have never been reported in this part of the island. Since the find was so recent scientists are still in the process of finding the age and species of the crocodiles. Finding the crocodile fossils in an underground fresh-water cave is especially rare compared to regular dirt paleontology.

Annotation

Anchor Paper 1

Score Point 3

The response demonstrates full command of the conventions of standard English appropriate for grade 6. Capitalization of proper nouns and at the beginning of sentences is correct along with subject-verb agreement and usage. Commas are correctly used around appositives and after some introductory elements to guide the reader (. . . *the fish, the coelacanth, was a creature that had been extinct for 65 million years. This was the first one ever caught, as early as 1938*); however, some errors occur with comma splices and periods where commas should go (*This Idea develops differently in "Croc Fossil Found In Cave." because in the Dominican Republic*). Overall, errors are minor, and meaning is clear.

In both articles, they talk about fossils. But in *Miss Me*, they develop the idea of the way Earth has changed over the passed millinia differently from *Croc Fossil in Cave*. In *Miss Me*, they develop the idea by a man catching ,what is supposed to be extinct, a fish that is called Coelacanth. And they talk about the fish until the last two paragraphs. So really in that article they want to talk about this special fish and then tell a little about the Wollemi pines found in a little vally.

But in *Croc Fossils in Cave*, they talk about more fossils that was found in the cave. They talk about the crocodile's fossil because it was in a maraculous condition (great shape). And they want the viewer to know more about fossils rather than one special specimen.

So all in all both articles express their ideas of the way Earth changed in a million years differently. They want the reader/viewer to know what uqnie animals/plants are out there. Even if they are extinct.

Annotation

Anchor Paper 2

Score Point 2

The response demonstrates some command of the conventions of standard English appropriate for grade 6. Commas are used after introductory phrases and to indicate non-restrictive clauses (*In Miss Me, they develop the idea by a man catching, what is supposed to be extinct, a fish that is called Coelacanth*). Proper nouns and passage titles are correctly capitalized, but not always correctly formatted with the appropriate quotation marks. Vague pronouns are frequent (*But in Miss Me, they develop the idea*), along with misspellings (*millinia, extinct, crocodile's, maraculous, uqunie*) and errors in usage (*fossils that was [were] found*); however, overall, meaning is generally clear.

There are three different ideas about fossils in the three stories I have read. In "Clues to Ancient Life" the idea is that scientists learn about past life on Earth and how Earth has changed over millions of years from fossils. In "Croc Fossil Found in Cave" the idea is that fossils help tell where animals used to live. In "Miss Me" the idea is that scientists may think that a specific species is extinct but they may not be.

Annotation

Anchor Paper 3

Score Point 1

Although sentences are constructed correctly, with correct beginning-of-sentence capitalization and correct end-of-sentence punctuation, the response demonstrates limited command of conventions. Spelling is correct, and capitalization is used for proper nouns and passage titles. Quotation marks are used to correctly format passage titles, but italics are not used for the video title. Missing commas to set off introductory phrases are frequent in this limited amount of writing.

it is developed differently because is Miss Me its very discriptive and on the other hang Croc Fossil Found In Cave it doesnt get into a lot of detail

Annotation**Anchor Paper 4****Score Point 0**

In this response, titles are capitalized, but the beginning of the sentence is not, nor is any end-of-sentence punctuation included. Errors occur in usage and spelling, and contractions are not formed correctly. The response is unable to demonstrate any command of conventions due to the brevity and frequency of errors.