

Name _____ Date _____

Part 1

Performance Task 1

Part 1

Practice Makes Perfect

Task:

Your school is having a talent show. Students can enter an act that shows off a skill or talent of theirs. Think about what kind of act you would do at a talent show.

Have you ever heard the saying *practice makes perfect*? Hard work and practice can lead to great talent. You want to learn more about special talents young people have. You have found two sources about talented young athletes.

After you have looked at these sources, you will answer some questions about them. Briefly scan the sources and the three questions that follow. Then, go back and read the sources carefully so you will have the information you will need to answer the questions and complete your research. You may use scratch paper to take notes on the information you find in the sources as you read.

In Part 2, you will write a narrative using information you have read.

Directions for Beginning:

You will now look at two sources. You can look at either of the sources as often as you like.

Research Questions:

After looking at the sources, use the rest of the time in Part 1 to answer three questions about them. Your answers to these questions will be scored. Also, your answers will help you think about the information you have read and looked at, which should help you write your narrative.

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You may refer back to your scratch paper to review your notes when you think it would be helpful. Answer the questions in the spaces below the items.

Your written notes on scratch paper will be available to you in Part 1 and Part 2 of the performance task.

Source #1

You have found information about a famous ballerina in an article at the library.

Darci Kistler's Ballet Dream

In 1980, Darci Kistler became a ballerina with the New York City Ballet. Darci was only sixteen years old. This dance group is very famous, and she has performed in many ballets with this group. Darci started working to become a ballerina when she was very young.

Darci was born in California. She was the youngest of five children. She was the only girl with four older brothers. Darci's brothers all loved sports, and they won many trophies. Darci liked sports, too. She tried tennis and swimming. She tried football and skiing. They were fun, but they were not for Darci.

Darci was drawn to the world of dance. She loved tutus* and glitter. Darci used to dress up as a ballerina for Halloween. She loved pretending to be a dancer. Her family went to see a ballet on stage. Darci loved it! The dancers were beautiful. They moved so gracefully. They wore pretty outfits. She decided she wanted to be a ballet dancer when she grew up.

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Darci began taking ballet lessons when she was a young child. She had a lot to learn! Ballerinas wear leotards and tights. They wear ballet slippers on their feet. Dancers use their arms, legs, and feet while dancing. Students learn steps and special poses. Good posture and flexibility are important. Learning ballet is hard work!

Darci enjoyed learning to dance, and she was a good student. Darci learned quickly. Sometimes the lessons were fun. Sometimes they were difficult. Students need to perform steps over and over. They practice until the steps are perfect. Darci worked hard to do her best. She was very talented.

Darci won her first trophy when she was still young. Finally, she had a trophy to put with her brothers' awards! Her hard work was noticed. When Darci was fourteen she won a scholarship. She would study at the School of American Ballet. However, she had to leave her family in California. She would have to move to New York City.

Darci spent many hours practicing at this ballet school. She was a beautiful dancer. She was graceful and strong. Darci performed the main role in a ballet. Later she joined the New York City Ballet. Now she was a professional ballet dancer. Darci Kistler's dream had come true!

*A tutu is a short, fluffy skirt worn by ballerinas.

Source #2

A magazine article you found provides information about the life of a famous ice skater.

Tara Lipinski, Olympic Champion

Many young people dream of going to the Olympics. Olympic athletes must be talented. They must be willing to work very hard. These athletes often start training when they are young. Tara Lipinski began at age three.

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Her mother took her to a roller-skating rink when she was three years old. Tara liked roller-skating, so she began taking classes. Then she started taking lessons by herself. Six years later Tara entered a national contest. She won a medal for roller-skating.

Tara was six the first time she went ice-skating. At first she fell down a lot. It was hard, but Tara did not give up. Knowing how to roller-skate helped her become a better ice-skater. Soon Tara loved ice-skating. She was very good at it. She could glide across the ice. She could go fast on the ice. Tara began to learn tricks and moves. She started focusing more on ice-skating.

At age nine, Tara was waking up at three in the morning. She was at the ice rink by four o'clock. She would practice with her coach. After practice she went to school. Those were long days! Tara wanted to become a better skater. She knew the hours of practice were worth it. In the summers, Tara spent a lot of time skating. She trained with good coaches. Tara and her mom moved to be closer to her coaches.

Thirteen-year-old Tara skated at the World Figure Skating Championships. She came in fifteenth place. Tara was young and small. She was less than five feet tall! It was hard for Tara to jump as high as other skaters. Other people gave her tips. She practiced to get better. Soon she began to jump higher. She never gave up.

The next year Tara went back to that competition. The judges loved Tara's graceful skating. She was able to jump higher. Her hard work paid off. Tara came in first place. She became the youngest world champion figure skater. She was 14. Everyone cheered when she won.

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Tara still hoped to win an Olympic gold medal. The 1998 Winter Olympics were held in Japan. Athletes around the world came. Countries sent their best players in each sport. Tara was chosen to be on the team for the United States. She would compete in figure skating. Her skating was very good. Tara won the Olympic gold medal! She was only 15 years old. Tara had worked hard. She was a success!

- 1 Which statement could summarize **both** sources?
 - (A) To be successful at something, you must start when you are young.
 - (B) A person's talent can always be seen from a young age.
 - (C) Being successful is always lonely with little time for friends or family.
 - (D) Achieving your goals requires practice and hard work.
- 2 A reader may come to the conclusion that becoming a professional athlete is difficult and takes practice. Use **two** details from the articles to support this statement.

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3 Darci Kistler and Tara Lipinski were both great young athletes. Identify **one** similarity between the two that may have helped lead to their successes. Use details from the sources to support your claim.

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Part 2

You will now review your notes and sources, and plan, draft, revise, and edit your writing. You may use your notes and go back to the sources. Now read your assignment and the information about how your writing will be scored. Then begin your work.

Your Assignment:

Darci Kistler loved ballet dancing and worked to become a ballerina. Tara Lipinski loved roller-skating and ice-skating and became an Olympic skater. Think about what your talent would be if you entered the talent show. It can be a sport or an artistic activity. It does not have to be something that will lead to a career. You will write about the first time you tried this activity or about an activity you would like to try. You should explain how you felt the first time you tried the activity or were successful at it or how you imagine it would feel. Your writing will be read by other students, teachers, and parents.

Read back through the sources to get an idea of how the athletes in the sources began their sport and how they developed their talent. Then write a narrative that is several paragraphs long about a sport or activity you feel passionate about and an experience you have had or want to have. Clearly organize your narrative and support your main idea or topic with details and descriptions. Use dialogue if appropriate.

REMEMBER: A well-written narrative

- contains an effective and complete plot.
- develops strong setting, narrator/characters.
- follows a logical order and is well organized.
- has an introduction and conclusion.
- uses transitions.
- uses sensory details to describe the situation or characters.
- uses exact, specific words and clear language.
- uses vivid or figurative words/language.
- uses correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar.

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Now begin work on your narrative. Manage your time carefully so that you can

1. plan your narrative.
2. write your narrative.
3. revise and edit the final draft of your narrative.

For Part 2, you are being asked to write a narrative that is several paragraphs long. Write your response in the space below.

Remember to check your notes and your prewriting and planning as you write and then revise and edit your narrative.

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