

Performance Assessment Task

The Great Depression: Changing Ways of Life

You are a junior writer for a well-known financial magazine. Your editor has decided that the feature article in the upcoming issue will be about the economic meltdown of 2008. You have been assigned to assist the lead writer by providing the historical context about the last time an economic crisis of this magnitude occurred, namely the Great Depression of the 1930s.

As you write your part of the article, you will complete the following tasks.

Explain impact of economy on ways of life

- Provide background information about the Great Depression in Canada.
- Explain how the Great Depression affected ways of life in both urban and rural communities in Canada.

Select photographs to make meaning

- Select photographs that illustrate how the Great Depression affected life in urban and rural communities in Canada.
- Ensure you note the source of each photograph you use.
- Write captions to appropriately describe what the photograph is depicting.

Submit your part of the article and related photographs to the editor. Remember that the purpose of the article is to encourage the audience to pause and reflect. Consider how photographs and the effective use of language will work together to achieve this purpose.

Rubric: The Great Depression: Changing Ways of Life

Student _____

Level Criteria	Excellent	Proficient	Adequate	Limited *	Insufficient / Blank *
Explain impact of economy on ways of life (5.3.4.2, 5.S.2.3)	Provides comprehensive information about the Great Depression. Makes insightful connections between the economy and how ways of life were affected.	Provides thorough information about the Great Depression. Makes meaningful connections between the economy and how ways of life were affected.	Provides cursory information about the Great Depression. Makes simplistic connections between the economy and how ways of life were affected.	Provides incomplete information about the Great Depression. Makes irrelevant connections between the economy and how ways of life were affected.	No score is awarded because there is insufficient evidence of student performance based on the requirements of the assessment task.
Select photographs to make meaning (5.S.2.1, 5.S.7.4)	Selects photographs that provide significant support for the article and creates perceptive captions to clarify what the pictures are illustrating.	Selects photographs that provide relevant support for the article and creates focused captions to clarify what the pictures are illustrating.	Selects photographs that provide predictable support for the article and creates basic captions to clarify what the pictures are illustrating.	Selects photographs that are unrelated to the article and creates trivial captions that do little to clarify what the pictures are illustrating.	
Communicate information (5.S.8.1)	Communicates information in a skillful manner to engage the audience.	Communicates information in an effective manner to interest the audience.	Communicates information in a straight-forward manner that generally holds the attention of the audience.	Communicates information in an ineffective manner that does little to sustain attention of the audience.	

* When work is judged to be limited or insufficient, the teacher makes decisions about appropriate intervention to help the student improve.