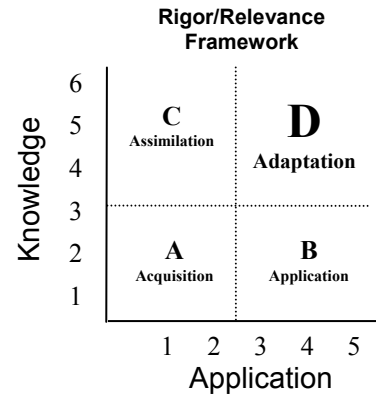




# ODYSSEY- REPORTING FOR THE ITHACA EXAMINER



Gold Seal Lesson

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## Subject

ENGLISH

Grades 5-8

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## Instructional Focus

**Reading:** Students read a variety of grade level materials, applying strategies appropriate to various situations.

**Writing:** Students write for a variety of purposes and audiences with sophistication and complexity appropriate to the grade level.

**Listening:** Students listen for a variety of purposes appropriate to the grade level.

**Speaking:** Students speak for a variety of purposes and audiences with sophistication and complexity appropriate to the grade level.

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## Performance Task

Assign students to read excerpts from *The Odyssey*.

Have students read articles from various sections of the local newspaper and discuss basic journalism techniques used.

Ask students to write about events in *The Odyssey* in journalistic style for *The Ithaca Examiner*, a newspaper that might have been read by Penelope or Telemachus in ancient Athens. Students' newspapers might include the following sections: a headline article, a sidebar related story, an advice column, a comic, a classified ad, an obituary, and an article a reader would find in the "living section."

Have students design and create their own version of *The Ithaca Examiner* by cutting and pasting their copy in place or by using a graphic design package such as PageMaker if it is available. Encourage students to add pictures and/or clip art to their designs.

As an extension of this activity, ask students to read one of their articles to the class.

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## Scoring Guide

Score each of the following characteristics on a scale of 4 to 0, where 4 = surpasses expectations; 3 = high quality performance; 2 = satisfactory quality performance; 1 = minimum quality performance; 0 = does not meet expectations.	
Criteria	Score
<p><b>Writes articles for The Ithaca Examiner</b></p> <p>Applies knowledge of journalism to Odyssey. Applies the rules and conventions of grammar, usage, punctuation, paragraphing, spelling. Presents information in well-organized fashion that will be clear to the target audience. Uses editing and revising skills to improve effectiveness and accuracy. Includes all components the task requires. Creates a neat, visually appealing final product. Uses creativity</p>	
<p><b>Presents one article</b></p> <p>Gives oral presentation that is clear and is understood by the audience. Makes eye contact, speaks loudly enough, delivers information in a well-organized fashion, and appeals to the target audience's need to know.</p>	
<p><b>Listens while others present</b></p> <p>Is attentive during others' presentations. Does not interrupt presenter.</p>	
<p><b>Technology</b></p> <p>Makes proper use of available technology. Shows skill in page design and layout.</p>	

## Essential Skills

- Apply in writing the rules and conventions of grammar, usage, punctuation, paragraphing and spelling. (ela1)
- Identify, collect and/or select pertinent information while reading. (ela5)
- Present information in well-organized fashion that will be clear to the target audience. (ela11)
- Understand and produce a variety of informative formats such as business letters, memos, reports, news articles, brochures, proposals and critiques. (ela22)
- Understand the personal, social, cultural and historical significance of a text. (ela23)
- Summarize, synthesize and organize information while reading. (ela24)
- Understand the nature and purpose of and be able to word process a variety of formats including essays, business letters, memos, instructions, policy statements, technical proposals, user manuals, lab reports, etc. (ela30)
- Use writing as a way of expressing personal creativity. (ela31)
- Understand and use graphics such as graphs, charts, visual aids, white space, bold print, headers and other graphics to enhance meaning. (ela56)
- Interpret in writing a literary work's meaning and significance. (ela79)