The background features a light-colored wooden desk. On the left, a brown notebook is partially visible. On the right, a spiral-bound notebook with a yellow cover has a sticky note that says "Home Read". A yellow pencil with a red eraser and a sharpened lead tip lies horizontally at the bottom. On the left side of the desk, there are some yellow pencil shavings.

Analyzing Informational Texts 2





This icon indicates that the slide contains activities created in Flash. These activities are not editable.



This icon indicates that a slide contains audio.



This icon indicates coverage of the Language Standards.



This icon indicates that a worksheet accompanies the slide.



This icon indicates teacher's notes in the Notes field.



This icon indicates an opportunity for collaboration or group work.

College and Career Readiness Standards for Reading:

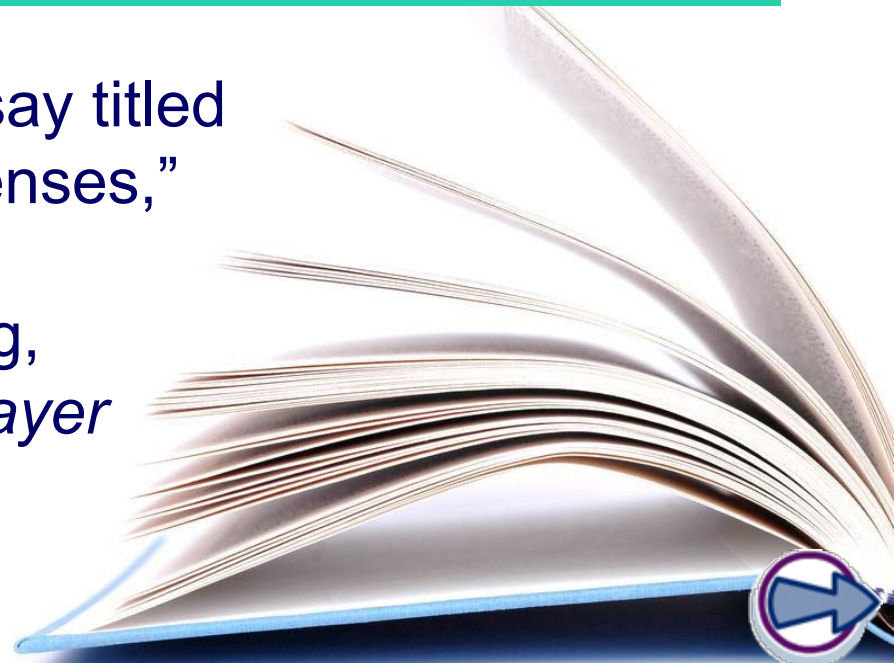
1. Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.
2. Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.
3. Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.



Imagine it is 1895 and you are a fan of James Fenimore Cooper, a well-known American author. An essay has just been published criticizing his writing style and several of his well-known novels.

How would you write an articulate and informed response to this essay in defense of Cooper's writing?

In 1895 Mark Twain wrote an essay titled "Fenimore Cooper's Literary Offenses," which was a scathing criticism of James Fenimore Cooper's writing, especially his novels *The Deerslayer* and *The Pathfinder*.



To respond to Twain's criticisms, you must have a clear understanding of his argument.

Before you begin to write your response, you will need to analyze Twain's argument.

- Determine what Twain's central ideas are.
- Analyze how those arguments develop and build on each other.
- Decide if Twain is right.
- Form your counterargument.
- Find sentences you can cite in your response.



Mark Twain, 1871



Read an excerpt



Evidence for central ideas



Continued reading



As you read Twain's essay, analyze his argument.

What evidence does Twain use to back up each central idea?

What does the evidence say explicitly?

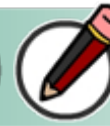
What does the essay imply?

Is the essay convincing?

If you (as a fan of Cooper) think that Twain's evidence is convincing, then your response will have to agree with him. If you find his evidence unconvincing, you must explain why and support your argument.



Plan your response



Response checklist



Evaluating responses



Based on your partner's feedback, brainstorm a few ideas that you could use to improve your response. This might include:

- using more persuasive language
- referring back to Twain's essay more often
- restructuring your argument
- quoting secondary sources to support your claims
- proofreading for grammar and spelling.

Edit or rewrite your response using these ideas.

