

Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts: K-12 Close Reading Task

Text grade band placement: 6-8	
Text	Text Complexity Analysis
<p>Title: Urban II's Speech at the Council of Clermont</p> <p>Author: Pope Urban II (as retold by the Fulcher of Chartres)</p> <p>Citation/Publication info: Halsall, Paul, ed. "Medieval Sourcebook: Urban II (1088-1099): Speech at Council of Clermont, 1095, Five versions of the Speech." <i>Medieval Sourcebook</i>. Fordham University, n.d. Web. 2 Jan 2013.</p> <p>Link: http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/urban2-5vers.html</p>	<p>Quantitative: Lexile: 1175L</p> <p>Qualitative: This text is appropriate because it is both challenging and thought-provoking. The text includes challenging vocabulary and abstract ideas and requires multiple inferences.</p> <p>Reader and Task: Potential challenges for students include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complex text structure - Dated language - Ambiguous language, imagery
ELA/Literacy Common Core Standards addressed by task	
<p>CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.1 Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources.</p> <p>CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.2 Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.</p> <p>CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.6 Identify aspects of a text that reveal an author's point of view or purpose (e.g., loaded language, inclusion or avoidance of particular facts).</p> <p>CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.11-12.2 Write informative/explanatory texts, including the narration of historical events, scientific procedures/experiments, or technical processes.</p> <p>CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.11-12.4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.</p>	
What key insights should students take from this text?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pope Urban II called for the First Crusade in his sermon at the Council of Clermont in 1095. • Christians were being attacked in Jerusalem and needed assistance. 	

- European Christians were encouraged to make immediate arrangements to leave for Jerusalem.
- The Pope claimed to have the authority of God and offered remission of sin for those who fought in the Crusades.
- The effectiveness of Pope Urban II's speech demonstrates the influence and authority of the Catholic Church in the Middle Ages.

Text-Dependent Questions

1. What is the purpose of Pope Urban II's speech?
2. For whom do you think this speech is meant? Why?
3. Based on his language in the speech, how does Pope Urban II see himself? Use specific examples from the speech to support your answer.
4. Pope Urban II offers several reasons for people to join the crusades. Which of these was the most influential? Why?
5. What elements of this speech would be effective today? Which elements would not? Why?

Writing Mode	Writing Prompt
Informative/ explanatory	Pope Urban II's speech called for European Christians to join the Crusades. Place yourself in the role of either a Christian European nobleman or a peasant and write a letter home to your family in which you explain your decision whether or not to join the Crusades. Use details from this speech to write your letter. Remember the role of religion and social status for Europeans in the Middle Ages in crafting your response.

Scaffolding and support for special education students, English language learners, and struggling readers:

- Students may:
 - Read individually and notate as they read
 - Read aloud (popcorn read)
 - Break sections down during small group work (ex. pair-share)
 - Follow up with whole class work

How this task supports the content standards for relevant subject area courses in this grade band

- This task requires students to read about one of the most significant events impacting Europe and the Middle East: the Christian Crusades.
- This task would be appropriate for the content standards of a 7th grade social studies course (world history)