

Central Bucks School District

9th Grade Assessment


Take A Stand

LEADING THE WAY

In the Central Bucks School District, student performance is assessed at transition points in grades three, six, nine, and twelve. *Take a Stand*, the Ninth Grade Assessment Project, specifically targets several of the district's learning goals, including collaboration and responsible citizenship, while focusing on the skills of researching, analyzing perspectives, and presenting information. In support of these focus areas, the assessment measures student competency in five areas:

- ◆ Information Processing
- ◆ Management of Time and Task
- ◆ Collaboration
- ◆ Content Analysis
- ◆ Presentation

The Ninth Grade Assessment allows students to apply the research and presentation skills that they have acquired throughout their middle school years while analyzing a meaningful topic and developing an informed opinion. This task provides all students with feedback concerning areas of personal strength and weakness. Identifying these areas will direct the students toward success in high school and beyond.



The Task:

In cooperative groups, students select a local, state, national, or world issue that has significance for a wide audience. The groups utilize their skills in research, critical analysis of information, organization, and presentation. In addition, students are required to use the information that they gathered to make informed conclusions concerning their issues and to support and defend various perspectives.



The Process:

Over a period of several weeks, students work in cooperative groups to research and analyze information concerning their issue, exploring all possible sides or points. Group members then define their individual positions and make certain they have information to support their sides. Finally, groups prepare a presentation that represents all of their best information. To facilitate students with the Ninth Grade Assessment, each group is assigned a mentor teacher. Mentors serve as guides to support and encourage student success throughout the process.



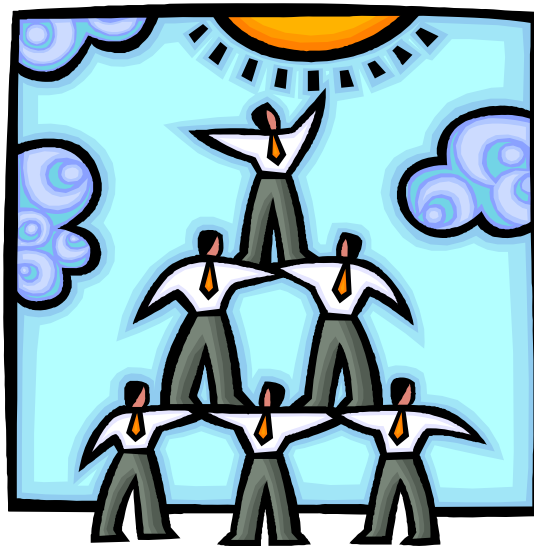
The Presentation:

Utilizing skills gained throughout their middle school coursework, groups develop a Ninth Grade Assessment presentation and deliver the positions of group members as well as opposing groups. Students consciously choose a presentation format that best represents their personalities, information, and personal positions, while demonstrating an awareness of their audience. All Ninth Grade Assessment presentations are delivered to a panel of adults.

The Results:

All Ninth Grade Assessments are scored using a set of district rubrics. These documents evaluate student performance in the categories of information processing, management of their time, collaboration, content analysis and presentation. All students must complete the assessment in order to receive a portion of the assessment credit required for graduation. Notations concerning assessment status are made on student report cards and in student cumulative files. Students who do not meet the required criteria with their initial Ninth Grade Assessment are scored as "Uncertified" and are given an opportunity to improve any weak areas.

Completion of the Ninth Grade Assessment is a graduation requirement for Central Bucks School District.



Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision; the ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results.

—Anonymous