SAMPLE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT TASKS

1. Write a newspaper article
2. Use evidence to solve a mystery.
3. Devise a game.
4. Participate in a debate.
5. Infer the main idea of a written piece.
6. Draw a picture that illustrates what's described in a story or article.  Explain what you have drawn, using details from the story or article.
7. Write a research paper.
8. Apply a scoring rubric to a real or simulated piece of student work.
9. Write an outline of a text or oral report.
10. Propose and justify a way to resolve a problem.
11. Design a museum exhibit.
12. Develop a classification scheme for something and explain and justify the categories.
13. Justify one point of view on an issue and then justify the opposing view.
14. Given background information, predict what will happen if \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
15. Evaluate the quality of a writer's arguments.
16. Combine information from several sources to draw a conclusion about something.
17. Determine alternative courses of actions, giving advantages and disadvantages of each.
18. Analyze how a particular system works and the way the components work together to affect each other.
19. Apply rules to particular situations.
20. Answer questions beginning, "What will happen if..." or "What would you do if..." or "How would things be different if...."
21. Write a summary of an article.
22. Critique  your own or someone else's work, giving examples and details.
23. Compare and contrast two stories or articles.
24. Draw conclusions from a text.
25. What was the purpose of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_?
26. Any task that requires an extended written response.
27. Into what groups would you organize these?  How are the groups defined?
28. How many different solutions to this problem can you identify?
29. What evidence supports this claim?
30. What information do you need to solve this problem?
31. What information do you need to answer this question?
32. How can you improve on that solution?
33. What errors have been made in this reasoning?
34. Do you see a pattern here?  What is that pattern?
35. Based on this principle, what do you think will happen next?
36. Act in a play.
37. Write a play.
38. Identify from which culture or time unfamiliar works of art, music or dance have come.
39. Critique a performance or a work of art.
40. Write a newspaper article that describes and explains a show at an art gallery or museum.
41. Classify works of art or music according to the period or culture they represent.
42. Compare the moods created by two works of art, musical pieces, dances, plays.
43. Review a concert.
44. Write a theatrical review.
45. Direct a play.
46. Build sets or create costumes for a play.
47. Compare two different performances of the same play, dance or musical piece.
48. Compose a musical piece.
49. Perform a musical piece.
50. Perform a dance.
51. Create a work of art.
52. Choreograph a dance.
53. Compare works of art, music or dances from different cultures of historical periods.
54. Compare and contrast works of art that deal with the same theme.
55. Adapt a short story in dramatic form.
56. Adapt a historical event in dramatic form.
57. Devise and carry out a personal fitness plan.
58. Write a health-related public service announcement.
59. Devise a healthful diet
60. Perform fitness tests.
61. Demonstrate first aid skills.
62. Play a sport.
63. Make a decision based on weighing the advantages and disadvantages of the alternatives.
64. Invent a game
65. Write your own ending to a story.
66. Write a letter of recommendation for a fictional character.
67. Do you think [character] acted appropriately in the story?  Explain why or why not?
68. Evaluate the claims made in an advertisement.
69. Analyze how the author of an advertisement uses persuasion.
70. Explain what problem a character faced and how it was resolved.
71. Analyze the figures of speech used in a poem.
72. Compare and contrast two characters.
73. Retell a story in your own words.
74. Interpret characters' traits and motivations.
75. How does the author help you to understand \_\_\_\_\_\_?
76. Write a newscast.
77. Write an advertisement.
78. Critique a composition—how could the author have done it differently?  Better?
79. Critique a story—how could the author have done it differently?  Better?
80. Interpret the significance of events in a story.
81. Discuss a personal response to literature (e.g., How did this story change your ideas [or add to your understanding] about \_\_\_\_\_?  Explain your response using ideas from the story as well as your own experience.)
82. Analyze the imagery in a poem.
83. Edit and revise a poorly written paper.
84. Write a letter to the editor about an environmental issue.
85. Write a letter to a famous person.
86. Write a letter to an elected official.
87. Write a draft and revise.
88. Letter to the editor about a community issue.
89. Write a biography of someone you know.
90. Explain how a particular event might be interpreted in different ways.
91. Identify propaganda techniques in a written or oral communication.
92. Oral or written book review.
93. Write a story.
94. Analyze how the author of an editorial uses persuasion.
95. Keep a journal.
96. Analyze how the author of a letter to the editor uses persuasion.
97. Analyze how a speaker uses persuasion.
98. Analyze a story.
99. Write a poem.
100. Solve an open-ended math problem, preferably one with multiple solutions or multiple paths to the correct solution.
101. Determine which store has the best prices.
102. Use mathematical manipulatives to illustrate a concept.
103. Prove a theorem or corollary that has not been done in class or the text.
104. Draw a floor plan.
105. Measure something.
106. Build a model.
107. Use a bus or train timetable to determine a schedule.
108. Estimate amount of food needed to feed a large group.
109. Develop an itinerary for a trip given budget and time constraints.
110. Given a budget, decide what to serve at a class party.
111. Conduct a simulation.
112. Create a budget.
113. Create a spreadsheet.
114. Write a computer program.
115. Convert one type of graph or chart into another (e.g., pie chart into bar chart).
116. Draw the same graph to different scales.
117. Critique a chart, table or graph and explain how it might be made clearer or more useful.
118. Conduct a poll on consumer preferences, display results graphically, state conclusions.
119. Compare the accuracy over time of two different weather (or other) forecasts.
120. Conduct an opinion poll, create a chart or table of the results and explain your conclusions.
121. [Note:  The next 15 suggestions come from "Writing Open-Ended Science Problems," by Sarah B. Berenson and Glenda S. Carter, *Science Educator*, Vol. 3, No. 1, Spring 1994.]
122. Some people think that [common student misconception].  What do you think?  Explain your answer.  E.g., Some students think that a seed needs to be planted in the ground to grow.  What do you think?  Explain your answer.
123. Give and justify an opinion on an ambiguous issue.  E.g., some people would not live in a house that was near the nuclear power plant.  Explain why these people might have concerns about this.
124. Write a story problem that could be used to find [a variable in a science equation].
125. Write a story that describes [a scientific theory or phenomenon].  Illustrate your story with pictures. E.g., write and illustrate the life story of a bean seed or write a story to describe similarities and differences between different kinds of clouds.  Use cotton batting, glue and construction paper to illustrate your clouds.
126. Describe in words and pictures how a [scientific instrument] works.
127. Graphically display experimental data.
128. Conduct a science experiment.
129. Propose and describe an invention that fills some need.
130. Describe in words and pictures what the [class demonstration] taught you about [science concept].
131. Conduct scientific observations.
132. Classify rocks, organisms, plants, etc.
133. Solve open-ended science problems.
134. Describe in words and pictures [a scientific phenomenon].
135. Determine the probable effect of some event on an ecosystem.
136. Use lab equipment safely.
137. Design an experiment that describes a [science concept/principle].
138. Compare and contrast how well some animals have adapted to their environments.
139. Analyze the relationships within an ecosystem.
140. Design an experiment to find out which of several products is best.
141. Critique an experimental design.
142. Critique a lab report and explain where reasoning or work was incorrect.
143. Construct a table that describes your [science observations].
144. Construct a model of [a science theory, concept, phenomenon].
145. Write how you would teach another student to [algorithm/measure].  E.g., explain write what you would say and what you would draw to teach a classmate to balance a lever using two different weights.
146. Describe the [error in thinking] that a student made on his science test.  E.g., Don stated that mixing sugar and water was a chemical change. How would you help Don to understand his error?
147. Using the given materials, design a demonstration that illustrates the [science concept/principle].
148. Construct a figure/shape/pattern/diagram that illustrates the [science concept.
149. Construct a [insert type] graph that describes your [lab experiment/activity].
150. Write a newspaper article about a historic event.
151. Create a history fair project.
152. Draw a picture or construct a diorama that illustrates [something from another time, place, or culture].
153. Pretend you live in [another time, place, or culture].  Write a story that tells how you spend a typical day, including what you do, what you wear, what you eat and where you live.
154. Interview a senior citizen for an oral history project.
155. Construct a timeline.
156. Write an interview with a historical figure.
157. Draw a political campaign poster for a historical figure.
158. Participate in a mock job interview.
159. Participate in a mock trial.
160. Write a travel or tourist brochure.
161. Draw a map of your neighborhood.
162. Propose contents of a time capsule.
163. Draw inferences from a map.

http://intranet.cps.k12.il.us/Assessments/Ideas\_and\_Rubrics/Assessment\_Tasks/Ideas\_Tasks/ideas\_tasks.html

*Note*: website no longer exists.