

Name: _____ Date: _____

Finding and Using Text Evidence

Directions: Read “Swimming for Her Life.” Then complete the activity below.

1. Imagine that you writing a paragraph explaining the challenges refugees from Syria face.

A. Which of the following is the BEST topic sentence for your paragraph?

- Ⓐ Some countries, like Germany, have opened their doors to Syrian refugees.
- Ⓑ Syrian refugees may still face many hardships after they escape from Syria.
- Ⓒ Hundreds of thousands have died in Syria.

B. Which information from the article BEST supports the sentence you chose in part A?

- Ⓐ Nearly 11 million Syrians have fled the country. (p. 11)
- Ⓑ Refugees sometimes have trouble finding a job and housing in a new country. (p. 11)
- Ⓒ Many Syrians escaped to neighboring countries and others headed to Europe. (p. 11)

C. Which of the following BEST explains why the text evidence you chose in part B is relevant?

- Ⓐ It explains the role of smugglers in the movement of people out of Syria.
- Ⓑ It provides examples of the kinds of difficulties refugees can face while settling in a new place.
- Ⓒ It describes how the deadly violence of the civil war forced Syrians out of their country.

2. Choose the piece of text evidence that BEST supports the statement below. Then complete the sentence to explain your choice.

Olympic athletes must make sacrifices to compete.

- Ⓐ “Every athlete at the Olympic Games has a story.” (p. 13)
- Ⓑ “Instead of going on family vacations, they [Olympic athletes] attend clinics and workshops. They give up after-school activities to train.” (p. 13)
- Ⓒ “The International Olympic Committee (IOC) was putting together the first-ever team of refugees for the 2016 Games in Rio.” (p. 13)

I chose ____ because _____

3. A. Choose THREE pieces of text evidence from “Swimming for Her Life” that BEST support the statement below.

Yusra and Sarah took great risks to escape from Syria.

- Ⓐ “Both sisters [Yusra and Sarah] dreamed of swimming in the Olympics one day.” (p. 11)
- Ⓑ “The sisters knew the journey would be extremely dangerous, but that did not deter them.” (p. 11)
- Ⓒ “‘Maybe I’m going to die on the way,’ Yusra said, ‘but I’m almost dead in my country. I can’t do anything.’” (p. 11)
- Ⓓ “Yusra and Sarah were sent to a refugee camp in Berlin, where they secured special permission from the government to be there.” (p. 12)
- Ⓔ “From there, they joined a group of about 30 other refugees and hired armed smugglers to help them get to Greece. It is against the law to enter another country without official permission, so they had to be careful not to get caught by local authorities.” (pp. 11-12)

B. Select one piece of INCORRECT evidence from above and explain why it does NOT support the statement.

Evidence ____ does not support the statement because _____

4. Choose the paragraph that correctly uses text evidence from “Swimming for Her Life” in the form of a direct quotation.

- Ⓐ Although Yusra Mardini didn’t swim fast enough to advance to the semifinals, competing at the 2016 Olympic Games was a big deal for her. For Yusra, “simply being at the Olympics was a victory and a chance to shine a light on the plight of the world’s refugees.”
- Ⓑ Although Yusra Mardini didn’t swim fast enough to advance to the semifinals, competing at the 2016 Olympic Games was a big deal for her. Her mere presence at the Games was a victory, writes author Kristin Lewis, and an opportunity to highlight the plight of the world’s refugees (p. 13). Hearing Yusra’s story helped people better understand the hardships faced by refugees.
- Ⓒ Although Yusra Mardini didn’t swim fast enough to advance to the semifinals, competing at the 2016 Olympic Games was a big deal for her. For Yusra, writes author Kristin Lewis, “simply being at the Olympics was a victory and a chance to shine a light on the plight of the world’s refugees” (p. 13). In other words, Yusra’s presence at the Olympics drew attention to the hardships faced by refugees.

Explain why the two answers you did NOT choose are incorrect: _____

5. Choose the paragraph that correctly uses text evidence from “Swimming for Her Life” in the form of a paraphrase.

- Ⓐ Even when Syrian refugees are able to escape the dangers of Syria, they may face hardships in other countries. “They had money, but some businesses refused to sell them food,” writes Kristin Lewis in her article “Swimming for Her Life” (p. 11). This demonstrates that refugees can encounter difficulties such as discrimination in other countries.
- Ⓑ Even when Syrian refugees are able to escape the dangers of Syria, they may face hardships in other countries. For example, in her article “Swimming for Her Life,” Kristin Lewis explains that while Yusra and her sister were traveling from Greece to Germany, some business refused to sell them food (p. 11). This demonstrates that refugees can encounter difficulties such as discrimination in other countries.
- Ⓒ Even when Syrian refugees are able to escape the dangers of Syria, they may face hardships in other countries. When Yusra and her sister were traveling from Greece to Germany, some business refused to sell them food.

Explain why the two answers you did NOT choose are incorrect: _____
