

**How to Ace High-Stakes Tests
Complementary Subject-Area Texts
All Disciplines**

**What Evidence
Is There That
This Master
Story is
True?**

COMMON CORE ELA STANDARDS: DIFFERENT DISCIPLINES USE DIFFERENT EVIDENCE

Standard 2: Students adapt their communication in relation to audience, task, purpose, and discipline. They set and adjust purpose for reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language use as warranted by the task. They appreciate nuances, such as how the composition of an audience should affect tone when speaking and how the connotations of words affect meaning.¹ They also know that **different disciplines call for different types of evidence (e.g., documentary evidence in history, [confirming facts and voices in oral history], experimental evidence in science, [showing of compelling attention in art].**

Read the selection

MASTER BEDTIME TALE: DEEP SIX THE OPALS OR MUTINY

Answer the questions that follow.

STANDARD: EACH DISCIPLINE CALLS FOR ITS OWN TYPE OF EVIDENCE.

Is there anything in Part One of this essay to provide evidence that it is true?

- A. Yes, the precise, detailed writing convinces the reader
- B. No, there are no eye-witnesses identified or documents quoted to back up the story.
- C. Yes, the writer knew that the Captain had been through mutinies before.
- D. No, opals are not dangerous.

Please research the following question using your on-line resources

What are some of the concrete things that you could research on-line in order to find out if the mutiny story was true? (For instance, one could try to find out if Captain Chase was “thirty-five years a whalin”)

¹ COMMON CORE, statement on core purpose: “Students Who are College and Career Ready in Reading, Writing, Speaking, Listening, & Language” [is this from writing standards? Don’t shift to that, but find its equivalent in non-fiction reading...] all terms in brackets were added by me

STANDARD: EACH DISCIPLINE CALLS FOR ITS OWN TYPE OF EVIDENCE.

Please answer the question, below, in no more than three succinct, full sentences.

The log, above,log has only begun to be read. However, when Amy and the New Bedford Archivists started to read the log, Amy learned to her great surprise that there were many days that the ship travelled five hundred miles a day, and more! Given that, what could she look for that would provide some evidence that the ship was stopped mid-ocean? What tools might she use?

The first paragraph of the text, above, is all known from oral history only. The Captain and his wife told their daughter told Annie, who had left the ship by the time this happened. Annie told her grandchildren, who in turn told their children, and we are telling ours, and telling you. But the New Bedford whaling museum and the family both have a lot of documents from and about Captain Chase and his whaling voyages. Many other institutions, businesses and sites can offer much evidence.

Compose a coherent [interesting] essay properly using textual evidence in support.
 You are a researcher looking into the truth of this story. What would you do?

STANDARD: EACH DISCIPLINE CALLS FOR ITS OWN TYPE OF EVIDENCE.

Which of the following documents would NOT be useful in building a case?

- A. Captain Chase's bank record shows he has taken out all his savings before this voyage.
- B. Captain Chase's daily diary has no record of him traveling to New York where opals are bought and sold. etc.

Much of the text from Part One is based on oral history only. Which of the following would be evidence that this oral history is not correct?

- A. If, in fact, sailors of the day believed opals would bring good luck.
- B. If Captain Chase had, in fact, faced no other mutinies.
- C. If crewmen stopping work would pose no danger to the ship.
- D. all of the above