

Striving for Excellence

A snapshot reading task in Health and PE

Level 4

Using School Journals to support Reading across the Curriculum

The snapshot tasks below are designed as illustrated examples of planning interactive reading tasks at Level 4, within a Health and Physical Education inquiry. They are based on the theme of **Striving for Excellence**. They are not intended to be sequential tasks, rather they provide a lens on the literacy demands that students need to engage with at a particular level of the curriculum.

How these snapshot tasks might be used?

- Use these as a model to support you as you plan other reading tasks for a particular level across the curriculum
- Adapt these tasks by interchanging texts and adjusting to meet specific learning needs
- Integrate these into your existing unit on the same theme
- Use these to prompt your thinking and planning for a broader unit.

NEW ZEALAND CURRICULUM



LEARNING AREA	Health and Physical Education
LEVEL	4
FOCUS OF LEARNING/TOPIC	Striving for excellence
CONTEXT	Commonwealth Games
VALUES	Excellence, integrity
KEY COMPETENCY	Managing self
CONCEPTUAL UNDERSTANDINGS	A variety of factors impact on the development of an athlete as they attempt to achieve their goals. Personal achievement impacts not only on the participant, but on the community they live in and the wider community.
HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT OBJECTIVES	Relationships with Other People - Identify the effects of changing situations, roles, and responsibilities on relationships and describe appropriate responses.
POSSIBLE INQUIRY QUESTIONS	What sacrifices and commitments do athletes make as they strive for excellence in their chosen field? How is an individual supported by the wider community in reaching their goal?
ENGLISH ACHIEVEMENT OBJECTIVES	Ideas: Show an increasing understanding of ideas within, across and beyond texts. Language features: Show an increasing understanding of how language features are used for effect within and across texts.

RESOURCES: Focus texts for tasks

TITLE	Six Days a Week (L4. March. 2012)
ARTICLE SUMMARY	An article about a thirteen-year-old sportsperson and her love of swimming and running and her commitment to training.
TITLE	Red Surfer Riding (Part 4. Number 3. 2006)
STORY SUMMARY	Its high tide at Shipwreck Bay in Northland, and day one of the National Surfing Championships. Will the current title holder, Jessie Santorik, win two years in a row? additional text interview with Jess Santorik: http://www.urge.co.nz/connecting-you/celebrity-interviews/782-jess-santorik-interview.html
TITLE	Triathlete Sam (School Journal Story Library)
STORY SUMMARY	This non-fiction text is about Sam Mallard, a young New Zealand triathlete who has competed in New Zealand and overseas. The story details one of his races and then includes an interview with Sam about his early motivation and his future goals.
TITLE	Potiki Crew (Part 4. Number 1. 2007)
STORY SUMMARY	Potiki Crew are practising in earnest for the National Hip Hop Competition. Join one of their rehearsals.
QUOTES	<p>“The will to win, the desire to succeed, the urge to reach your full potential... these are the keys that will unlock the door to personal excellence.” - Confucius (Chinese teacher, editor, politician and philosopher 551-479BCE)</p> <p>“Desire is the key to motivation, but it's determination and commitment to an unrelenting pursuit of your goal - a commitment to excellence - that will enable you to attain the success you seek.” - Mario Andretti (World Champion racing driver - Formula One, NASCAR, Indy Car, Le Mans - one of the most successful Americans in the history of the sport)</p> <p>“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit.” - Aristotle (Greek philosopher 384 - 322 BCE.)</p> <p>“To be successful you have to be selfish, or else you never achieve. And once you get to your highest level, then you have to be unselfish. Stay reachable. Stay in touch. Don't isolate.” - Michael Jordan (American retired pro basketball player named “ the greatest of all time” by the NBA)</p> <p>“Excellence is the result of caring more than others think is wise; risking more than others think is safe; dreaming more than others think is practical, and expecting more than others think is possible.” - Ronnie Oldham</p>

INSTRUCTIONAL FOCUS AND PLANNING

INSTRUCTIONAL FOCUS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Locate, evaluate and synthesize information and ideas within and across a range of texts (3-4)• Make judgments in order to identify information that is irrelevant to the identified purpose for reading• Evaluate/synthesize ideas across 3-4 texts on a similar theme – looking for common elements that are linked back to the inquiry question/s.• Generate a response in relation to prior knowledge and reading across a range of texts.
READING PURPOSE	To evaluate what attributes and dispositions of excellence are referred to or inferred in the stories and the articles read.
GUIDED READING	<p>Teachers may lead separate guided reading sessions for each of these texts prior to completing the reading tasks.</p> <p>This 'snapshot' task requires students to locate, evaluate and synthesise ideas and information in articles that are set in different contexts that relate to physical activity, and consider them in relation to some quotations about excellence.</p> <p>Other texts could be used to provide other perspectives and situations. Students may need support to select information that will be useful to meet the wider reading purpose. This task is one that will require a number of sessions to complete.</p>
SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE	What skills and knowledge do my students bring to the learning?
SUPPORT	<p>What support will my students need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make judgments about importance and/or relevance of information• Infer meaning and interpret abstract ideas• Identify links across texts.

ACTIVITIES

Before reading the quotes	<p>Share the learning: The focus is on identifying similar ideas across a number of different texts</p> <p>Discuss the quotations . e.g. <i>What does Michael Jordan mean by "to be successful you have to be selfish"?</i> <i>Why does Aristotle say that excellence is a habit, what does he mean?</i></p> <p>Read the quotes about excellence. Identify what are the <u>traits, attitudes, actions and dispositions</u> according to the quotes needed to achieve excellence. Classify them into some key groups.</p> <p>Present your findings on a chart. Consider how the texts show examples of these traits, attitudes, actions and dispositions.</p>
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Choose one text
e.g. *Six Days a Week*

Work together with one text e.g. *Six Days a Week* to identify examples of the traits that show that Chantelle Maher is striving for excellence in her chosen field. Record the traits on the chart.

Are there things that are not referred to in the quotations that should be added to the chart? (e.g. family support, enjoyment, experienced trainers...),

Giving it a Shot
by David Tulloch

Reading purpose: To identify the factors that help an athlete do well.

- *Discuss Dad's feedback to Lauren. Was he being fair to her? Why do you think that?*
- *If Dad had said nothing how would this have affected Lauren?*
- **Locate** clues in the text which shows how Lauren helped herself to be better at sport?
- *Why do you think she changed her mind?*
- *What does the author want us to know through this story? Do you agree with the author's message?*

Traits (for example)	<i>Six Days a Week</i>	Red Surfer Riding	Potiki Crew	Triathlete Sam
Determination	The ocean race - I remember it being really cold. I just focused on getting to each marker buoy."			
Commitment	Training schedule of 15 kms 3 days a week at the pool, running 6 kms twice a week, Saturday body-surfing or Life-saving training. Only Sunday off.			
Desire	Wants to compete in the Olympics			

Reflection

- *Are the traits you have identified apparent in each of the texts?*
- *Which do you feel are most important?*
- *Does excellence mean the same thing to everyone?*
- *Should striving for excellence in one area take priority over others (e.g.sport over school work)?*
- *What are the sacrifices made in the pursuit of excellence?*
- *Is it worth the effort/ sacrifice? Why/why not?*

Now consider the Nigerian (Igbo and Yoruba) proverb. "It takes a whole village to raise a child".

- What do you think this proverb has to do with striving for excellence? What evidence in the texts supports your opinion?

Invite students to come up with their own statement about striving to excel that may one day be something that is quoted by others.