

Grade 10
Volusia Literacy Test 2:
Informative Writing



Read the "Leaders from History" passage set.

"Leaders from History"

Source 1: *Suleiman the Magnificent*

by Jane Simmons

- 1 In 1453, Ottoman armies from the western highlands of Turkey captured the city of Constantinople. They renamed the city Istanbul and made it the center of their growing empire. In 1520 a new sultan (supreme ruler) ascended the Ottoman throne. This sultan, Suleiman, became one of the greatest rulers in history. An aggressive military leader, he was feared but also admired by people in other lands. His people called him Kanuni, "the Lawgiver." Europeans called him Suleiman the Magnificent.

Suleiman the Warrior

- 2 The thunderous sound of goatskin drums and the clash of brass cymbals reverberated off the great walls of the island city of Rhodes. This battle music was designed to strike fear in the hearts of its enemies. It had its intended effect. To the Greek soldiers on the ramparts, it seemed as if the very heavens had opened and let loose bolts of lightning and clashes of thunder. Even though it was extremely hot, the warriors felt a chill. After all, they were confronting the army of Suleiman the Magnificent, who had already captured the Eastern European city of Belgrade.
- 3 The drums and cymbals reached a crescendo. Suleiman's warriors raced forward to attack one of the most highly fortified cities in Europe. In wave after wave they came, a hundred thousand strong. After more than 130 days of fighting, the Ottoman army entered Rhodes victorious.
- 4 Over many years, the fleets of Rhodes had intercepted Ottoman ships and disrupted its commerce. Now the routes were clear. After consolidating his victory and replenishing his army, Suleiman set his sights on other conquests. A soldier's soldier, Suleiman always rode at the head of his army to inspire his troops.
- 5 In 1526, Suleiman clashed with the Hungarian army. Leading the Hungarians into battle was their 15-year-old king, Louis II. The fighting was over in a matter of hours, due to a brilliant tactical action by Suleiman. The Sultan allowed the charging Hungarians to penetrate the front lines. Then he used an enveloping maneuver to surround them. Attacked from all sides, the Hungarians were wiped out, and their young king was killed.

- 6 Suleiman was not just a warrior. He was interested in learning, art, architecture, and the law. Under his reign the Ottoman Empire reached its peak both as a military power and as a center of culture.

Suleiman the Builder

- 7 On a hill overlooking the narrow body of water called the Bosphorus stood Topkapi Palace. First built by Mehmet II, a sultan who ruled before Suleiman, Topkapi had been the chief residence of the Ottoman rulers since the 1460s. Each Sultan had added something to the palace complex, a tradition that was to continue for centuries after Suleiman's rule. Topkapi Palace wasn't just a home—its many chambers and outbuildings were a place where royal administrators met to run the affairs of state, soldiers trained, treasures were safely stored, and all kinds of artists lived and worked.
- 8 Ottoman architecture used elements such as domes, half-domes, arches, slim towers called minarets, and pillars. Buildings were often decorated with colorful tiles in geometric designs. Suleiman's chief architect was the brilliant Mimar Sinan whose works are still admired today. He and other architects built bridges, dams, fountains, palaces, and mosques throughout the Ottoman Empire.
- 9 Visitors to Turkey marveled at the way builders were able to complete structures so quickly, a rarity in Europe at that time. An Ottoman architect who designed a structure frequently lived to see his work finished. Historians attribute this quickness to the specialization of the workers. Ottoman records list workers such as wood sawyers to prepare the wood beams, carpenters to do the woodwork at the site, rough masons, skilled masons, quarrymen, plasterers, locksmiths, brick makers, and metalworkers. Like a modern-day assembly line, each kind of worker performed one task again and again. The benefit of this system was that everyone could work with speed and efficiency.

Suleiman, Poet and Patron of the Arts

- 10 In a courtyard surrounded by date palm trees, the poet Baki recited his poetry to an enthralled audience. Poets, artists, and philosophers used the courtyards at Topkapi Palace to present their works and exchange ideas. Suleiman himself was a prolific poet and writer.
- 11 Under Suleiman's rule, Istanbul became one of the world's cultural centers. Suleiman created many artists' societies that were administered from Topkapi Palace. These societies provided a training system for artists. The artists were paid fairly for the work they did. The best artists,

including bookbinders, jewelers, and painters, were invited to become part of the royal court.

Suleiman's Legacy

- 12 Suleiman died in 1566. He left his successors a strong empire that was one of the world's most important powers. The efficient legal system, well-organized government, and strong military that he had built served the Ottoman Empire for many generations to come.

Source 2: Nelson Mandela Inaugurated President of South Africa

by Matt Darvil

PRETORIA, May 10, 1994

- 13 In a short but historic ceremony, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela took the oath of office today as president of the Republic of South Africa. The ceremony took place at South Africa's main government building, in the nation's capital. Facing a crowd of 140,000, Mandela said that today's inauguration was "a common victory for justice, for peace, for human dignity." As the first black president of South Africa, the 75-year-old Mandela pledged to build "a complete, just, and lasting peace." He said, "The time for the healing of the wounds has come."
- 14 Vice President Al Gore led the official delegation from the United States. With him were his wife, Tipper, and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton. American civil rights leaders Coretta Scott King and Jesse Jackson were also part of the group. "The history we are present to witness marks a transition in the history of our world," Mr. Gore said.

Historic Election

- 15 Today's event is a result of South Africa's first "all-race" elections. In April, South Africans of every race were allowed to vote in a national election. Mandela, candidate of the African National Congress (ANC), won a landslide victory.
- 16 The path to the elections began more than four years ago, when President F. W. de Klerk persuaded white South Africans to work for change with black South Africans. A key part of de Klerk's plan was the release of Mandela from prison, where he had been for 27 years. On the

day of his release, Mandela spoke of the need for democratic elections: "Universal suffrage on a common voters' roll in a united, democratic, and nonracial South Africa is the only way to peace and racial harmony."

Mandela's Long Road to Freedom

- 17 Born in 1918, Nelson Mandela grew up in rural South Africa. White South Africans ruled the country, and black South Africans suffered discrimination in all aspects of their lives. When Mandela was in his 30s, South Africa adopted an official policy of racial separation called *apartheid*. Mandela's battles against apartheid would put him in prison beginning in 1962.
- 18 Mandela used every opportunity he had to speak out against the injustice of white domination. "I have dedicated myself to the struggle of the African people," he declared during one of his trials. "I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But, if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die."
- 19 Mandela was held at the notorious Robben Island prison. Conditions were harsh—bare cells, meager food, manual labor, and scarce contact with the outside world. And yet Mandela never lost his spirit or determination. Other prisoners benefited from spending time with him, learning history and political strategy. Robben Island became known as "Mandela University."
- 20 Mandela was an international symbol of the injustice of apartheid. All over the world, people demanded, "Free Mandela!" The white leaders of South Africa began to offer him some form of conditional release as early as 1985. But Mandela was not willing to accept conditions—or return to a country where he and his people still had no political rights. "Your freedom and mine cannot be separated," he told them.
- 21 When President de Klerk took office in 1989, negotiations began for South Africa's political future. Mandela was released in February 1990. The two men continued to work together to find a way to end apartheid. In 1993, they won the Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts.

Source 3: Accomplishments of Queen Elizabeth I

by Amit Carter

- 22 Queen Elizabeth I has the reputation of being one of the greatest monarchs of England. The Elizabethan era is often referred to as the Golden Age of Britain. But what did “Good Queen Bess” do that made her so beloved of the English people? What were her greatest achievements?

The Major Accomplishments of Queen Elizabeth I

- 23 • She was a gifted scholar who was able to speak several languages including Latin, Greek, French, and Italian.
- 24 • During her reign there was a widespread increase in literacy and great achievements in the arts. Great poets and playwrights, such as William Shakespeare, Edmund Spenser, Christopher Marlowe, and Sir Walter Raleigh created works that are still greatly admired and enjoyed.
- 25 • She greatly expanded the British Empire. She financed the explorations of such great explorers as Sir Francis Drake, Sir Walter Raleigh, Sir John Hopkins, Sir Humphrey Gilbert, and Sir Richard Greenville.
- 26 • She encouraged new scientific thinking, and important men such as Sir Francis Bacon and Dr. John Dee emerged during the Elizabethan era.
- 27 • She was thought of as a good wise ruler, who was truly loved by her people. Her early education helped make her highly accomplished in the art of rhetoric and public relations.
- 28 • She surrounded herself with highly intelligent, loyal advisors such as William Cecil, Sir Francis Walsingham, and Sir Robert Cecil who gave her sound political advice.
- 29 • A small fleet of British navy ships, with the help of some armed merchant vessels, defeated a much larger Spanish Armada.

Writing Prompt

You have read three texts about historical leaders from different places in the world. Each text provides information about these leaders and their accomplishments.

Write an informative essay in which you explain some of the qualities necessary to be a great leader. Be sure to use evidence from the texts.

Manage your time carefully so that you can

- read the passages;
- plan your response;
- write your response; and
- revise and edit your response.

Be sure to

- use evidence from multiple sources; and
- avoid overly relying on one source.

Your response should be in the form of a multiparagraph essay.