



A Super Example

1 In August 2009, Sonia Sotomayor was chosen for a very big job. She was picked to be a judge on the United States Supreme Court. The Supreme Court is the highest court in the United States. The judges decide if laws are fair. To get this job, Sonia had to be chosen by the President of the United States. Then the Senate (one of the groups that make up the United States Congress) had to vote on whether Sonia was right for the job. They agreed that she was!

Figure 1



**Supreme Court Justice
Sonia Sotomayor**

2 Sonia was born in New York in 1954. Her parents had moved to New York from Puerto Rico. They wanted to raise their family in America. Life was difficult for Sonia. When she was eight years old, she found out she had Type I diabetes. This meant her body could not make enough natural insulin to keep her going. So Sonia started getting shots of insulin to keep her well.

3 When Sonia was nine years old, her father died. Sonia’s mother had to work even harder to take care of the

family. She often worked two jobs. The family still did not have much money. Sonia’s mother always hoped for a better life for her children. She made them study. She even saved her money to buy Sonia a set of encyclopedias.

4 Around this time Sonia had learned to speak English and was reading books from the “Nancy Drew” mystery series. She wanted to be a detective and solve cases. But soon she began reading and learning about lawyers and judges. Sonia changed her hopes for the future. She saw the honor in the job, and she decided she wanted to be a judge. Sonia’s mother thought education would help her children reach their dreams, and she was right. Sonia became a lawyer, and her brother became a doctor.

5 Sonia went to college to study law. At school, she won awards for her good work. After college, Sonia worked in New York. First she was a lawyer, and then she became a judge. She wanted to decide if people’s actions were right or wrong. As a judge, Sonia was hard to fool. She saw people’s true character and treated them justly. To the lawyers who came before her, Sonia was firm but fair.

6 The President of the United States saw the work Sonia was doing. He thought she would make a good Supreme Court Justice. Sonia was excited. This was a big honor! She became the third woman and the first Latina woman ever to serve on the Supreme Court.

7 Friends say that Sonia is smart and special. She wants to be an example for children. She hopes to show them what hard work can do. She is proof that a person's background does not decide his or her future. It just depends on how much you believe in yourself and how hard you're willing to work.

Figure 2



President Barack Obama and Sonia Sotomayor

Figure 3



FROM LEFT: Supreme Court Justices Sonia Sotomayor, Ruth Bader Ginsberg, and Elena Kagan

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Health News

President’s Speech About Diabetes Raises Hopes and Awareness

In a speech about Sonia Sotomayor, President Barack Obama praised the judge for achieving her dreams. Sonia’s struggle and President Obama’s words inspired kids with diabetes and comforted their parents. Here is what the President said about Sonia:

“It’s my understanding that Judge Sotomayor’s interest in law was sparked as a young girl by reading the Nancy Drew series. And that when she was diagnosed with diabetes at the age of 8, she was informed that people with diabetes can’t grow up to be police officers or private investigators like Nancy Drew. In essence she was told she’d have to scale back her dreams. Well, Sonia, what you’ve shown in your life is that it doesn’t matter where you come from, what you look like, or what challenges life throws your way. No dream is beyond reach in the United States of America.”

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3.10B (Author's Purpose—Text Structure) H

- The author wrote the passage in chronological order except for the first paragraph because the first paragraph—
 - has a picture to go along with it
 - is the easiest one to understand
 - shows why this person is important
 - contains the most recent information

3.3D (Vocabulary—Word Relationships) L

- Read the sentences from paragraph 2 of the passage.

Life was difficult for Sonia. When she was eight years old, she found out she had Type I diabetes.

Which word means the opposite of difficult?

- Amusing
- Dangerous
- Simple
- Strange

3.3D (Vocabulary—Word Relationships) L

- Read the sentence from paragraph 4 of the passage.

She saw the honor in the job, and she decided she wanted to be a judge.

Which word means about the same as honor?

- Adventure
- Enjoyment
- Struggle
- Worth

3.3B (Vocabulary—Context) M

- Read the sentence from paragraph 5 of the passage.

As a judge, Sonia was hard to fool.

In this sentence, fool means—

- like
- teach
- trick
- understand

3.7C (Response—Text Evidence) M

5. Which sentences from paragraph 6 best support the idea that Sonia was chosen for an important job?

Select **TWO** correct answers. Fill in the check boxes with your selections.

The President of the United States saw the work Sonia was doing. He thought she would make a good Supreme Court Justice. Sonia was excited. This was a big honor! She became the third woman and the first Latina woman ever to serve on the Supreme Court.

3.10C (Author's Purpose—Print and Graphic Features) M

6. The author most likely uses Figure 3 to show the—
- A correct dress for Supreme Court justices
 - B place where Supreme Court justices work
 - C three female justices on the Supreme Court
 - D total number of justices on the Supreme Court

3.6C (Comprehension—Make Predictions) H

7. As a Supreme Court Justice, Sonia will most likely—
- A dislike her work
 - B learn what lawyers do
 - C enjoy judging difficult cases
 - D be held back by her diabetes

3.7C (Response—Text Evidence) L

8. The information in “Health News”—
- A tells you to think about being a lawyer or judge
 - B explains how illness can change people’s lives
 - C praises Sotomayor for the work she does as a judge
 - D shows how people get through hard times and meet their goals

3.7D (Response—Retell/Paraphrase) L

9. Look at the chart below.



Which events belong in the missing boxes? Select **TWO** correct answers.

- Sonia moved to Puerto Rico.
- Sonia worked at the White House.
- Sonia went to college to study law.
- Sonia went to college in California.
- Sonia became a Supreme Court Justice.

3.6E (Comprehension—Make Connections) H

10. Which sentence from “Health News” best supports the central idea from “A Super Example”?

- A *In essence she was told she’d have to scale back her dreams.*
- B *No dream is beyond reach in the United States of America.*
- C *Sonia’s struggle and President Obama’s words inspired kids with diabetes and comforted their parents.*
- D *It’s my understanding that Judge Sotomayor’s interest in law was sparked as a young girl by reading the Nancy Drew series.*

3.7B (Response—Write Response)/3.12B (Composition—Informational) H

11. Read the passage “A Super Example.” Based on the information in the selection, write a response to the following:

Explain how Sotomayor refused to let her career or future be decided by her background.

Write a well-organized informational essay that uses specific evidence from the selection to support your answer.

Remember to—

- clearly state your central idea
- organize your writing
- develop your ideas in detail
- use evidence from the selection in your response
- use correct spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and grammar

Manage your time carefully so that you can—

- review the selection
- plan your response
- write your response
- revise and edit your response

Write your response in the space provided.

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Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

Cora is a third grader. Her teacher asked each student to write a report about a brave person in history. Cora wrote about Bessie Coleman, a female pilot. This is a draft of Cora's report. Read her report, and think about corrections and improvements she should make. Then, answer the questions that follow.

Bessie Up High

(1) Bessie Coleman once said, “Do you know you have never lived until you have flown? (2) She almost did not get her chance to fly. (3) She was African American. (4) People tried to stop her from flying.

(5) Bessie was born in 1892 in a small town in Texas. (6) When she grew up, she moved to Chicago and worked in a barbershop. (7) Soldiers and pilots from World War I came into the shop. (8) They described what it felt like to fly. (9) It was then that Bessie decided she wanted to be a pilot, too.

(10) Bessie couldnt find anyone in America to teach her because she was female and African American. (11) She had to go all the way to france to attend flying school. (12) To attend the school, she had to learn to speak French. (13) Bessie graduated and became the first female licensed African-American pilot.

(14) Bessie became a stunt pilot, doing fancy loops and spins. (15) She put on exciting air shows. (16) Many African Americans watched her. (17) Some asked her where they could learn to fly, too. (18) People also asked her what the names of the stunts were called. (19) Bessie decided she would start her own flying school so that everyone could know what it felt like to fly.

(20) Sadly, before Bessie could open her school, she was killed in an accident at an air show. (21) However, Bessie Coleman had lived her dream. (22) Even though she never got a chance to share it with students, she has never been forgotten.

3.11C (Coherence and Clarity—Sentence Structure) H

1. How can you correctly combine sentences 3 and 4?

Select **TWO** correct answers.

- She was African American, people tried to stop her from learning to fly.
- People tried to stop her from learning to fly, so she was African American.
- She was African American, so people tried to stop her from learning to fly.
- She was African American and people tried to stop her from learning to fly.
- People tried to stop her from learning to fly because she was African American.

3.11C (Coherence and Clarity—Word Choice) H

2. Cora wants to use a better word than *doing* in sentence 14. What word should replace *doing* in sentence 14?

- A Flying
- B Performing
- C Providing
- D Spinning

3.11B.ii (Ideas/Details) H

3. Cora has a sentence that does not belong in paragraph 4 (sentences 14–19). Which sentence should she remove?

- A Sentence 14
- B Sentence 16
- C Sentence 18
- D Sentence 19

3.11D.x (Conventions) L

4. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 10?
- A Insert a comma after *her*
 - B Change *America* to **america**
 - C Change *couldnt* to **couldn't**
 - D Make no change

3.11D.ii (Conventions) M

5. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 6?
- A Change *grewed* to **grew**
 - B Change *Chicago* to **chica go**
 - C Insert a comma after *Chicago*
 - D Make no change

3.11D.ix (Conventions) L

6. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 11?
- A Change *she* to **her**
 - B Change *had* to **have**
 - C Change *france* to **France**
 - D Make no change