# Grade 8 Exemplar

**Exemplar A**

**Prompt: In an essay, compare the purposes of the three sources. Then analyze how each source uses explanations, demonstrations, or descriptions of experiments to help accomplish its purpose. Be sure to discuss important differences and similarities between the information gained from the video and the information provided in the articles. Support your response with evidence from each source.**

The texts “What is Electricity?” and “Conducting Solutions, and the video, “Hands on Science with Squishy Circuits” inform about electricity in an important combination of ways. The purpose of “What is Electricity?” seems to be to explain, with facts such as, “all matter is made up of atoms” which have: protons, neutrons and electrons, rather than to give descriptions or examples. A reader may get a surface understanding of electricity, but not a deeper sense of the topic. In contrast, the purpose of “Conducting Solutions” builds understanding with descriptions. For example, when mixing ammonia and vinegar, “the ammonia reacts with the acid in vinegar (acetic acid), and they form a lot of ions.” This description helps the reader understand connections between the substances. Finally, the purpose of the video, “Hands on Science with Squishy Circuits”, is to build understandings through demonstrating actual experiments. The presenter uses play doh to conduct electricity, showing how electricity behaves with and without buffers. The lights go out creating a “short circuit” when there is no buffer. Fewer facts are given, but the viewer gets a clear idea of the concept. Each source helps strengthen understanding about electricity, through giving different angles and information. Each seems incomplete on its own, if the goal is to gain both factual and conceptual understandings.