



Assignment

Explain What the Sources Say About a Topic #1

Topic: LEGO

Your Assignment:

Your class recently visited a LEGO store where you helped a LEGO Master Builder construct a life-sized sculpture of Darth Vader. This got you thinking about who designs and constructs these incredible structures. So, you decided to do some research.

As part of your research you have found two sources. After you have reviewed these sources, you will answer some questions about them. Briefly scan the sources and the question that follow. Then, go back and read the sources carefully so you will have the information you will need to answer the question and complete your research. You may use scratch paper to take notes.

In Part 2, you will write an opinion piece using information you have read. (You will not do Part 2 as part of this task because this is just practice.)

Directions for Beginning:

You will now review several sources. You may review the sources as often as you like.

Research Questions:

After reviewing the research sources, use the rest of the time in Part 1 to answer the questions about them. Your answers to the questions will be scored. Also, your answers will help you think about the information you have read, which should help you write your opinion piece.

You may refer back to your scratch paper to review your notes when you think it would be helpful. Answer the questions in the spaces below the items.

Your written notes will be available to you in Part 1 and Part 2 of the performance task. (You will not do Part 2 as part of this task because this is just practice.)

Sources for the Task:

Source #1

You have found the following article about the job of a LEGO Master Builder:

The Art of Master Building

By Jeff Glen

LEGOS have been around since 1932 and have relied on the art and creativity of Master Builders. A Master Builder is a highly trained and creative person. They design and build life-sized sculptures entirely out of LEGO bricks for LEGOLAND parks and special events around the world. Not only do Master Builders build amazing sculptures, they also design each LEGO set available in stores.

Builders build and build and build using traditional LEGO bricks. They focus on building family portraits, pets, and anything out of the ordinary. Only the best of the best can make a career out of playing with LEGOs.

Before becoming a famed Master Builder, an individual must attend a Master Builder Academy and be officially trained by The LEGO Group. This is a process that is very demanding and can take years to accomplish. It takes a lot of practice and patience to develop well-constructed, good-looking LEGO sets. However, Master Builders know many tricks and advanced building techniques to build strong, impressive models.

Designing new sets can be tricky. It is the job of the Master Builder to create entirely new sets while holding the interest of long-time fans. For example, the single most popular LEGO set is the Police Station. In order to keep that trend alive, builders are constantly redesigning the police station to make it look modern and new. When thinking about new LEGO models, builders consider famous buildings, current movies, and popular culture. For example, Spiderman, Batman, Star Wars, and princesses are all very popular. However, the most important thing to remember, is that all sets MUST be kid friendly, according to the LEGO website. Master Builders have made LEGOS the world's most popular construction toy to date.

Sources Used

Crockett, Z. (2014, March 13). Life as a LEGO Professional.

Retrieved from <http://priceonomics.com/life-as-a-lego-professional/>

Source #2

You have found the following article about the engineering of life-sized LEGO sculptures:

LEGOS: Larger Than Life

By Abigail Swan

Impressive sculptures built out of LEGO bricks can be found at LEGO theme parks around the world as well as at the many LEGO mega stores. It is a wonder how these monstrous statues are designed and built!

The LEGO Group has 40 hand-picked Master Builders around the world, and 7 of them are American. Nearly all of these official LEGO builders are engineers or computer programmers. An engineer is a person trained and skilled in design and construction. Many of them also have a great understanding of physics and architecture that is important to the balance and construction of sculptures.

Although the majority of the larger-than-life sculptures found at the 10 LEGO theme parks around the world are made out of actual LEGO bricks, many of them have a steel core or shape that Master Builders place LEGOS around. For example, the life-sized Darth Vader has two steel posts in his feet to prevent the seven foot statue from falling over. Of course this is important when there are millions of fans climbing all over the statue throughout the year.

The science behind these constructions is amazing! Sculptures towering high above buildings or floating along ceilings require intense research. Safety is always number one! Master Builders creatively use engineering skills and techniques to bring imagination to life. They develop structures and harnesses to hold or brace sculptures in place and then carefully place LEGO bricks around the frame to complete eye-catching statues.

Master Builders see themselves as artists or engineers rather than adults who play with toys all day long. They use their skills and creativity to design a lifetime of fun for both children and adults.

Sources Used

Crockett, Z. (2014, March 13). *Life as a LEGO Professional*.

Retrieved from <http://priceconomics.com/life-as-a-lego-professional/>

Answer this Question:

Source #1 and Source #2 discuss the skills and creativity of Master Builders working for The LEGO Group. Explain what the sources say about these builders. Use two details, one detail from Source #1 and one detail from Source #2, to support your explanation. For each detail, include the source title or number.

Your Response:
