**Sample Constructed Response**

What were the challenges that Helen Keller faced and how did she deal with those challenges? Use details from the article to support your position.

Helen Keller faced many challenges. She was blind and deaf, and she couldn’t communicate at all. She described her existence as living in a “still, dark world”, and she did not even know that words existed. The article primarily describes how she overcame the barriers that existed because she couldn’t communicate. It was Miss Sullivan, her teacher, who helped her break down the barriers because she gave her “the strange new sight” when she taught her the words for the objects around her. She described how she felt when she learned the word for “doll”. She wanted to share that with her mother, but she didn’t really understand the concept of words representing objects generally until she learned the word for water. That was the breakthrough moment for her when she realized that she could understand what someone was communicating to her through a specific touch. She said,”That living word awakened my soul, gave it light, hope, joy, set it free!” Learning that there are words that name objects and those words could be communicated through hand signals broke down the communication barrier for her. She finally understood that everything had a name and knowing the names for things gave her new thoughts and new emotions. Learning to communicate gave Helen Keller a chance to live a full life.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Claim of challenges: The paragraph states what the challenge was. | Claim of overcoming challenges: The paragraph states what was done to overcome the challenges | Evidence to support the claims: details from the document appropriately support the claims. |
| Acceptable response (3 points)  The response describes what the challenge was that the person faced and how the person dealt with the challenge. Supporting evidence is provided from the document for the claims. | | |
| Acceptable response (2 points)  The response may describe the challenge and how it was overcome but fails to include any evidence from the article to support the claim or the evidence is insufficient. | | |
| Acceptable response (1 point)  The response may describe either the challenge or how the challenge was overcome, but the response doesn’t sufficiently explain what is meant and there is little if any evidence. | | |
| Unacceptable response (0)  The response doesn’t address the challenge or how it was overcome or the information provided is incorrect or insufficient to make a case for a claim. Evidence is missing. | | |