**Question Handout:**

Article 1: “Soaring Skyward with Heavy Lifts” by David Frazier

1. Although the article doesn’t explicitly or directly state the purpose, what is the author’s purpose in writing?

2. How do you know that is the purpose?

3. What is David Frazier’s attitude or tone toward the giant cranes? Give evidence from the text to support your answer.

4. Why does Frazier include his childhood memory of watching airplanes?

5. Why did Frazier find his job so fulfilling?

Article 2: “Hell in a Steel Mill” by Maury Kleinman

6. What is Maury Kleinman’s purpose in writing this article?

7. How do you know that is the purpose?

8. Why does Kleinman include so many details about changing the hot rail shoes on the crane?

9. Why does the person working in the photo have protective gear on?

10. Why do you think Kleinman included the paragraph about working on 42 Crane?

Article 3: “What Inspires Me to Become an Architect” by David Colon

11. What is the purpose of this article?

12. How do you know this is the purpose?

13. In the first paragraph, how did the work go from hard and exhausting to easy and exciting?

14. How did building cabinets, putting up sheet rock, painting, and welding inspire Colon to become an architect?

15. What are four steps that David Colon has taken, is taking, and probably will need to take if he wants to become an architect?

**Answer Key:**

Article 1: “Soaring Skyward with Heavy Lifts” by David Frazier

1. Although the article doesn’t explicitly or directly state the purpose, what is the author’s purpose in writing?

Frazier’s purpose is to describe his experience of longing for and attaining his dream job of heavy equipment/crane operator. His experience also encourages others to pursue this career.

2. How do you know that is the purpose?

He begins the article with his desire to work with the cranes. In the second paragraph, he explains why he wants the job so badly. In the final paragraph, he tells of how he came to obtain that job and what it felt like to do the job. If you look back over these three main points, you see that the connection throughout is the job of crane operator.

3. What is David Frazier’s attitude or tone toward the giant cranes? Give evidence from the text to support your answer.

His tone is one of awe, reverence, respect, or admiration. Frazier’s word choice shows this tone: “stood mesmerized” “sparks that floated softly downward like dancing fireflies” “the job I wanted” “my ambition” “my dream” “the best job I ever had.” All of these positive words or phrases show his tone of admiration and awe and respect for the job of crane operator. The connection to his experience as a kid watching airplanes fly by also shows the awe that he feels for this job.

4. Why does Frazier include his childhood memory of watching airplanes?

He includes this childhood memory to show that just as he felt in awe of airplanes flying over him as a child, he also feels in awe of the work the cranes are able to do. He continues this metaphor by saying, “I wanted to fly, and that crane would become my aircraft.” He is still referring to this metaphor in the final paragraph by saying, “My dream of flying high in the skies of Inland Steel became a reality” and doing that work “made me feel like a kid again.” This is a simple yet perfect way to connect to the reader. Although the reader may not understand his respect for the cranes, each of us likely remembers watching an airplane fly by and feeling just how small we are and how big the world and the sky are.

5. Why did Frazier find his job so fulfilling? He was able to obtain his dream and to work with heavy equipment until he retired. His job inspired him, and he felt the work was important. He also seemed very grateful to have the chance to be craneman.

Article 2: “Hell in a Steel Mill” by Maury Kleinman

6. What is Maury Kleinman’s purpose in writing this article?

Maury’s purpose is to explain the worst and most difficult part of his job as an electrician.

7. How do you know that is the purpose?

One clue is to look at the final sentence of the first paragraph of the article. This is often (but not always) the topic sentence. In this article, it says, “I loved being an electrician, but there was one job I hated: changing the hot rail shoes on the cranes.” Then, the rest of the article gives specific details about this one task of his job.

8. Why does Kleinman include so many details about changing the hot rail shoes on the crane?

This is a task that most people are probably not very familiar with. In order for the reader to understand this task, he must use descriptive details to help the reader imagine what it felt like, smelled like, etc.

9. Why does the person working in the photo have protective gear on?

Although Kleinman doesn’t talk about wearing protective gear, you can deduce from all the other details about the heat, fire, fumes, and danger that the worker is wearing a suit to protect him from the dangers of this task.

10. Why do you think Kleinman included the paragraph about working on 42 Crane?

It seems he wanted to emphasize exactly how hot it was when he had to change the rail shoes. He says 42 Crane was always hotter than other cranes. I think he wanted to bring up an image of hell to describe this task; adding the details about 42 Crane enabled him to use the memorable simile: “it looked like a set of hands was trying to grab you and pull you down to hell. The hot metal burned you with no remorse.”

Article 3: “What Inspires Me to Become an Architect” by David Colon

11. What is the purpose of this article?

The purpose is to tell the story of what inspired David Colon to become an architect.

12. How do you know this is the purpose?

The title is a huge clue here. Once again, the final sentence of the first paragraph is the article’s thesis statement: “But once I started to see how beautiful the buildings turned out, I knew I wanted to become an architect.” The remaining paragraph supports the thesis by explaining how he came to this conclusion through working with others on building projects.

13. In the first paragraph, how did the work go from hard and exhausting to easy and exciting?

Colon says it changed “when I got used to it and learned the basics,” but he also mentions the professionals taking him under their wing and teaching him how to do many things. Furthermore, he uses the word beautiful twice to describe what they were building. You can infer that he developed a deep respect and appreciation for the work and the finished products.

14. How did building cabinets, putting up sheet rock, painting, and welding inspire Colon to become an architect?

He says that as he learned more skills, he saw that his work could be beautiful. Each type of work that went into building something made him interested in designing things himself. You can infer that learning these skills gave him the confidence to believe that he could become an architect and the passion to pursue that goal.

15. What are four steps that David Colon has taken, is taking, and probably will need to take if he wants to become an architect?

Colon has enrolled as a student at the Mid-Manhattan Adult Learning Center #5, so he is working towards attaining the education that he will need to be considered for a job as an architect. Secondly, he has worked as a laborer and learned valuable skills related to his future career. He will likely need to major in architecture at a college or university or attend a school for architects in the future. When he has all the necessary credentials, he will need to apply for a job as an architect. He may want to try to work as an intern or apprentice with an architect in order to gain valuable experience as well.