

(Level 5/6) Preparation: Research – Find credible sources and do a little basic research to answer the questions below. Be sure to properly quote, paraphrase, or summarize the information you find online. Write down the information from the source(s) you use, and write an in-text citation for each piece of information you find.

a. What is Braille? _____

- Source of information (author, date, website):

b. (Level 6) Is Braille its own separate language? (Explain.) _____

- Source of information (author, date, website):

Listen to the first 19 minutes of the episode of the *Note to Self* podcast, "[Is Braille Obsolete?](#)" and answer the questions below.

1. In the context of this story, what is accessibility? _____

2. The podcast host, Manoush Zomorodi, mentions that there is a debate going on right now related to Braille. Below, summarize the two sides (positions) of the debate, and provide a minimum of one reason in support of each side of the debate.

POSITIONS:		
REASON FOR POSITION:		

3. When was the mechanical Braille writer invented? _____
4. What is the average cost of a textbook written in Braille? _____
5. **(Level 6)** One of the teachers at TSB hung a problematic email from a student on her wall. Explain what happened (technologically speaking) to create the problem in this email. ***You will need to use your inference skills.***

6. As you listen, pay attention for new words or phrases you hear in the story. Write down three unfamiliar words or phrases below, and research the meaning of each.

WORD / PHRASE	MEANING



Spoken Response: Record a short response (1-2 minutes) to answer one of the questions below. Share your response with Sara before class time on Monday, April 13.

- a. In the podcast, Manoush Zomorodi asks the following question: *Does it matter if a blind kid can't spell?* Respond to her question with your own opinion. Be sure to support your opinion with explanations and/or examples.
- b. If you, personally, were blind, would you want to learn Braille? Support your answer with explanations and/or examples.
- c. Make a prediction: In your view, will Braille become obsolete in the future? Support your opinion with explanations and/or examples.
- d. In your view, is Braille its own separate language? Support your opinion with explanations and/or examples.