

Looking at NeSA – Writing Scoring

Kearney - October 9, 2013
Scottsbluff - October 10, 2013
Lincoln - October 17, 2013

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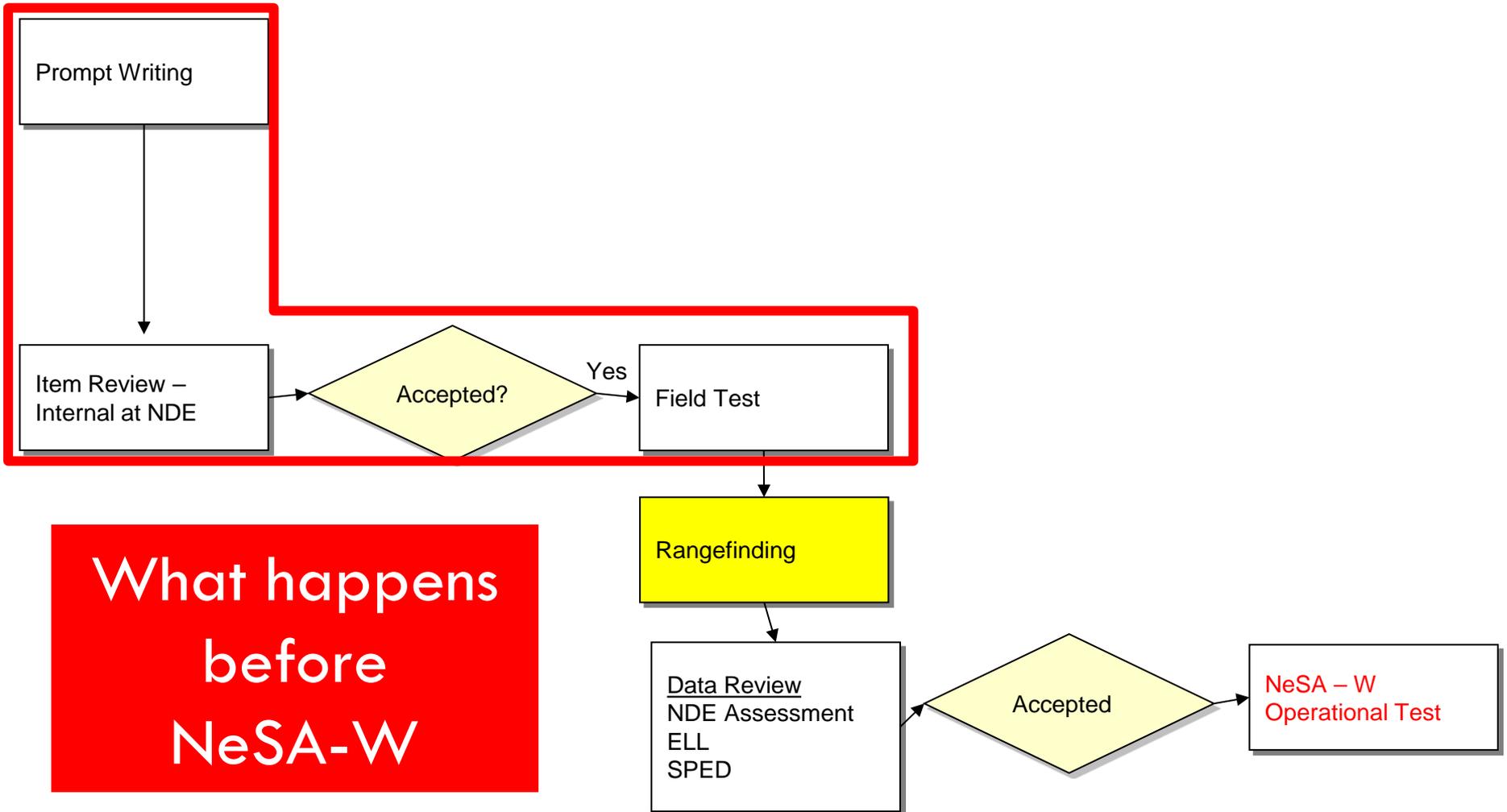


AGENDA

- Understanding NeSA-W – Background and Scoring
- Applying the Scoring Guide and looking at 2's, 3's, and 2/3 split papers
- Sharing of ideas



NeSA – Test Creation



What happens
before
NeSA-W



Rubric

- The State Writing Assessment (NeSA –W) is based on the three rubrics, one each at grade 4, 8, and 11.
- The rubrics themselves incorporate the six traits of writing.
- The rubric in the classroom can be used for any or all writing assignments.
- The rubric is more than just about passing NeSA-W. If students can do what is on the rubric, they can write well.
- Students should be familiar with the rubric.



Rubric

- On the NDE web page are the Self-Assessment Tools at grades 4, 8, and 11. They are available for classroom use. The Self-Assessment Tool also appears on the NeSA-W.
- The Six-Traits of Writing along with the Writing Process create the heart of a good writing program.



Rubric

- The four domains are weighted:
 - Ideas/Content -- 35%
 - Organization -- 25%
 - Voice/Word Choice -- 20%
 - Sentence Fluency/Conventions -- 20%
- A score calculator can be found on the NDE web page. First, click on Assessment, and then click on Writing.



Modes of Writing on NeSA-W

- **Grade 4 students write a narrative response which tells a story about something that happened, either real or imagined.**
- **Grade 8 students write a descriptive response which portrays a person, place, or thing with vivid sensory details that help the reader create a mental picture of what is being described.**
- **Grade 11 students write a persuasive response which attempts to get the reader to accept the writer's point of view on an issue posed by the prompt.**



Cut Scores Changes

Cut Scores have changed over the past two years at grades 4, 8, & 11.

Grade 4 had a new cut score set last year while 8 & 11 are in the second year of using the new cut score.

The cut score changes will be presented in two parts as the grade 4 score shift is different from that in grades 8 and 11.



Scoring Shift – Grades 4

In March, NDE conducted a standard setting for grade 4. The results of the process were presented to the State Board, resulting in new cut scores for grade 4.

The quality of writing did not decline but rather the board, after discussion, raised the requirements for “Meets the Standard”.



	1	2	3	4
Trait 1				
Trait 2				
Trait 3				
Trait 4				
Trait 5				
Trait 6				

- Under the old holistic grading system, a student at grade 4 would reach Meet the Standard with two 2's (4.00).
- Descriptions in the 2 column included:
 - Digressions
 - Limited unrelated details
 - Occasionally forced or contrived
 - Errors may distract



	1	2	3	4
Domain 1				
Domain 2				
Domain 3				
Domain 4				

- With the new analytic system, a student at grade 4 must have a score that falls in the 2/3 range of the rubric. (The student needs a 2 from one scorer and a 3 from the second scorer).
- 3 Column: Generally
 - Adequate
 - Logical
 - Functional
 - Paragraphing successful
 - Conventions usually correct and do not distract



Grade 4 General Information

- The assessment will remain in two 40 minute periods on consecutive days.
- No present plans exist for change to online or to lengthening the testing time for grade 4.
- Analytic scoring is in its second year at grade 4 with five scores for each student:
 - content (2)
 - organization (2)
 - word choice/voice (2)
 - sentence fluency/conventions (2)
 - total overall composite score



Grade 4 General Information

- NeSA-W Imaged Responses of paper/pencil submissions at Grade 4 (and any paper/pencil submission at 8 and 11) will be available March 18, 2014.



Suggestions for Scheduling NeSA- Writing Grade 4

- Administer the assessment on two consecutive days. Mondays are not ideal.
- Avoid scheduling toward the end of the testing window. Allow time for make-up tests within the three-week window.
- Make sure all of the assessments reach DRC by February 12, 2014.



Statewide Writing Assessment

Grade 4 – 2013-14

- A revised self-assessment tool for analytic scoring will be available.
- This tool was created by grade 4 teachers to be more grade 4 friendly.
- Information about the above, the modes of writing, and student writing samples are found on the assessment website in the writing section:
- <http://www.educatin.ne.gov/Assessment/NeSAWriting.htm>



Revised Grade 4 Friendly Self-Assessment Tool

Grade 4 – Narrative Essay NeSA-Writing				
	Yes	Somewhat	Not Ready	
Ideas/Content 35%				My story is easy to understand because I have used many well-chosen details.
Organization 25%				My story has a strong, beginning, middle and end. My transition words and phrases show how the ideas connect.
Voice/Word Choice 20%				My story has words I chose that are specific and precise throughout my story.
Sentence Fluency/Conventions 20%				My story has sentences that vary in length and structure. Grammar, usage, and punctuation are consistently correct.



Field Testing Grade 4

September 13 – New prompts were written by Nebraska teachers at grade 4.

Field Testing at grade 4 will remain the same as in the past. Testing will be in the spring, from the end of February to middle of May using paper/pencil tests.



Scoring Shift – Grades 8/11

In April 2012, NDE conducted a standard setting for grades 8 and 11. The results of the process were presented to the State Board resulting in new cut scores for these grades.

Again, the quality of writing did not decline, but rather the board, after discussion over a two-day period, raised the requirements for “Meets the Standard”.



Scoring Shift – Grades 8 and 11

- Under the old holistic grading system, a student at grade 8 and grade 11 would reach “Meets the Standard” with a 2 and a 2+ (4.33).
- With the new analytic system, a student must have a score that falls in the 3 range of the rubric. (If equivocated to the old rubric the student needs a 3 and a 3-).



	1	2	3	4
Trait 1				
Trait 2				
Trait 3				
Trait 4				
Trait 5				
Trait 6				

- Under the old holistic grading system, a student at grades 8 and 11 would reach “Meets the Standard” with a 2 and a 2+ (4.33).
- Descriptions in the 2 column included:
 - Digressions
 - Limited unrelated details
 - Occasionally forced or contrived
 - Errors may distract



	1	2	3	4
Domain 1				
Domain 2				
Domain 3				
Domain 4				

- With new analytic system, a student must have a score that falls in the 3 range of the rubric. (If equivocated to the old rubric, the student needs a 3 and a 3-).
- 3 Column: Generally
 - Adequate
 - Logical
 - Functional
 - Paragraphing successful
 - Conventions usually correct and do not distract



Scoring Shift – Grades 8 & 11

When looking at the rubrics (old and new), the 3 column is the acceptable standard. The Nebraska PLD's (Performance Level Descriptors) also clearly reflect the 3 column on each rubric as the state writing goal.

The new cut scores will allow some 2's, but most likely in the domains of word choice and conventions. Grade 4 is allowed the largest number of 2's while grade 11 the least.



2013 NeSA-W 8/11 On-Line Test Times

Time Span in Minutes: Grade 8		Time Span in Minutes: Grade 11	
0 – 30 minutes	751	0 – 30	1236
30 – 60 minutes	5373	30 – 60 minutes	8978
60 – 90 minutes	8689	60 – 90 minutes	7426
90 + minutes	5383	90 + minutes	2670
Total tested	20196	Total tested	20310



Grade 8 & 11 Testing Time

When time on task was plotted with the scale score the following general conclusions seem plausible:

- 1. Student scores start to level off after a 75-90 minute period, so students should be encouraged to spend a minimum of 75 minutes...as long as they are productive.**



Grade 8 & 11 Testing Time

2. With SPED students, the trend is somewhat upward for the entire time tracked, so SPED students could be encouraged to spend as much time as they can...as long as they are productive.

3. However, keep in mind students cannot be controlled for time during testing.

Training and instruction must come in the classroom before the test.



- NeSA-W will have a new delivery engine. INSIGHT is a DRC product and NDE is looking forward to its use.
- November 13 – December 20
NeSA-W field testing of future prompts for grades 8 and 11 will be held.

Please participate.



On a Positive Note

- Grade 8, in 2012, had 64% of the students at or above “Meets the Standard.” Last year, 2013, the results showed 66% of the Grade 8 students at or above “Meets the Standard.” A state-wide positive growth of 2%.
- Grade 11, in 2012, had 62% of the students at or above the “Meets the Standard.” Last year, 2013, results showed 68% of the Grade 11 students at or above “Meets the Standard.” A state-wide positive growth of 6% over the previous year.



Field Testing – Grades 8 & 11

September 13, 2013, new prompts were created.

The grade 8 & 11 Field Test will be delivered online through INSIGHT. Prompts are assigned randomly to students.

November 4 - INSIGHT download is available

November 13 - tickets are available and new download

Field test available **November 13 to December 20** for a period of nearly 5 ½ weeks.

November 8 at 1 pm & November 12 at 9 am
DRC will conduct Web-ex training for the new Field Test.

Please participate.



Field Testing – Grades 8 & 11

This is an opportunity for students to practice taking the test under the same conditions as the regular NeSA-W test.

As a field test of future prompts for NeSA –W, the test results cannot be used in any other way. (Example: No local scoring).

NDE appreciates schools supporting this project because we want to keep prompt writing in the hands of Nebraska educators!



Online Practice Test grades 8 & 11

- Students will use a ticket secured through the DRC site.
- The student response is saved to the DRC site same as the regular NeSA-W.
- Students may be added.



Your Help is Needed!

To keep the following activities “in state”, we must have adequate Field Testing:

- Prompt Creation
- Field Testing
- Prompt Selection
- Rangefinding
- Score Verification

**Field Testing is the underpinning activity
for all of the above!**



The Rangefinding Process:

Includes 7-11 Nebraska educators from a variety of educational backgrounds

DRC reps facilitate the work

This is the foundation for scoring the NeSA-W at 4, 8, 11. All decisions are grounded in what takes place at range finding.



The Rangefinding Process:

- Analytically score, discuss, and come to consensus on 90-100 papers from the field testing of the test prompt.
- DRC uses the papers selected and scored by this group to establish the anchors and train the raters prior to the scoring of the assessment.



The NeSA-W/DRC Partnership

*Working together to improve teaching and learning for
Nebraska students.*

3/15/2012





Smoothing Out NeSA-W

For any paper/pencil tests, students must write in #2 PENCIL. Papers written in ink will not be scored and will result in zero scores.

In the past, the papers/pencil booklet submitted in ink, therefore, not scoreable, were for the most part administered in make-up sessions by someone other than the regular classroom teacher.



Smoothing Out NeSA-W

In paper/pencil testing, the student response to the writing prompt must be written in the actual test booklet. That means if a student with an IEP is word processing a paper or using a scribe, the student response must still be transcribed into the test booklet in pencil.

Originals of transcribed papers will be sent to DRC in an envelope provided with the shipping materials, accompanied by the one page Transcription Form.



Smoothing Out NeSA-W

- In paper/pencil testing, students may only use the paper provided. If additional sheets of paper are added to the booklets, they will not be scored.
- All writing materials (including Spanish papers) and booklets for students taking the alternate tests must be returned to DRC, not to the NDE.



All Students must be Included in the Statewide Writing Assessment

- All students (except those who qualify for the NeSA-AA alternate assessment) are expected to participate in the statewide writing assessment.
- Districts may provide accommodations per the Nebraska State Accountability Approved Accommodations Document.
(See NDE webpage)



All Students must be Included in the Statewide Writing Assessment

- Students responding in a language other than English or Spanish will send their booklets to DRC and be counted as participants.
- Students in Rule 18 or Interim Program Schools need to participate.
- All NeSA Scoring Rules apply to the NeSA-W.



Statewide Writing Score Verification Process-May 2014

- The verification review is done by Nebraska educators who are writing experts.
- This process is appropriate only for very specific, not general, scoring issues. Only the total score can be sent for verification. The verification process is designed for student scores that fall below the state cut score.
- Success rate depends on the quality of the paper being appealed.



Performance Level Descriptors

- In December of 2011, NDE conducted a session to create the Performance Level Descriptors for the expectations of Nebraska students based on the analytic rubric. The PLD's are available on the Assessment web page:

http://www.education.ne.gov/Assessment/NeSA_Writing.htm



Questions ?

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