



STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT

GRADE 11 –

NeSA WRITING RUBRIC/SCORING TRAINING

PRACTICE PAPERS

OCTOBER 2013

Writing Topic

The principal has formed a committee to revise the student handbook and has asked for recommendations.

Think about a rule that should be added, changed, or removed.

Write a persuasive essay convincing the principal's committee to accept your recommendation. Provide reasons and/or examples to support your idea.

I think texting in study hall should be allowed. During study hall it is nice to just sit and relax and catch up on some over-due homework but when you have nothing to do, it's the worst 50 minutes imaginable. I can see why texting isn't allowed in normal classes where you actually need to learn and pay attention but when you're just sitting there wondering off and looking at the clock every five minutes only to see that only two minutes have passed is where I think it should be allowed.

Kids have always been complaining about texting and in turn smacking the school rule in the face by sneakily texting when the teacher is writing on the board and in turn soon getting caught and then getting a detention, which ironically enough, might be in the study hall room. Allowing texting in study hall would make it a-lot more enjoyable and make kids actually want it instead of going through the hassle of switching classes. Plus then it would be more controlled and there would be less unruly kids because then they can just text whomever they wanted to talk to and not have to shout and get in trouble by a teacher so in turn it would be much more quiet and then the kids working on something could work a-lot better since it'd be more peaceful.

Allowing just one period where kids can freely text might make them more willing to not get them out during other classes and getting in trouble and instead just waiting until their study hall period comes and they might look forward to it instead of going through their day all lifeless and bored. Plus looking forward to something in school might boost their excitement which in turn could allow them to pay more attention in class and get better grades and possibly then a better future. All from just allowing them to text in study hall.

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The handbook committee should change the cell phone rule so that students can use their cell phones during class when they have all of their homework done. It would keep students out of trouble by keeping them occupied so that they don't screw around. And more kids would hurry up and do their homework because they would have a reward for doing it. Students would pay better attention during class instead trying to hide from the teacher that they're texting. I think it would be good incentive to do their homework and pay attention during class.

Another reason they should change the cell phone rule is because sometimes the parents need to talk to their child throughout the day. Some parents think it is a bad idea to let them have their phones but you can leave that up to the parents of that child. The students should get two warnings until that student's privileges are up. The first offense is the teacher takes it and they get it back at the end of the day. The second offense the teacher gives it to the principal. And he can decide the consequences which would be like calling the student's parents and telling them what he or she did.

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My recommendation for the revised student handbook is to allow the use of phones in students' free time. The current rule states that cellular phones are allowed to be in school and on a student's person, but not to be turned on and used for texting, applications, or other uses. Phones can be distracting, however, and thus must be carefully regulated. The use of cell-phones provides students with something to do, would be easily watched, and would also be regulated with strict penalties for abusing the privilege.

The use of phones in students' free time allows them to productively use the empty time they would otherwise spend chattering with each other or be bored, and possibly even sleeping during class. Phones also provide a break from the tedium of school days and would help students to focus the rest of the time. If students are allowed the use of phones, they would be quiet and stay in their seat or otherwise designated area. This way, teachers would also be able to accomplish something without worrying too much about the students becoming rambunctious.

Phones are a distraction during class, but the teachers would watch for that. Students have used phones as a distraction in class while phones were "illegal," and the teachers weren't watching for them. If the teachers were given something to watch for, they could catch offenders with greater ease than if they were not watching for the phones in use. However, the problem would always remain, if phones were allowed or not, that students would use their phones illegally in class.

The use of phones in school can also be regulated strictly to ensure offenders don't repeat. For instance, if a student used their phone during an unauthorized time, the phone would be taken away and not allowed to be used in class for the rest of the semester. If the offender was seen with a phone after the first offense, while not allowed to have one, they could be given in-school-suspensions. For the third offense, they would be given out of school suspension, and then finally, expulsion for a fourth offense. Most students would have enough sense to not risk losing a privilege such as this in a manner as harsh as this.

The use of cell-phones provides students with something to do, would be easily watched, and would also be regulated with strict penalties for abusing the privilege. Students would still use phones in class illegally if the rule never changes, so phones might as well be authorized so students aren't breaking rules constantly. Certain websites could still be blocked from the internet so as to prevent students from accessing them via cell-phones. Students would also be allowed to use phones for accessing educational websites. For these reasons, I support the use of cellular phones during students' free time.

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The student handbook says many things a student can and cannot do. A rule that should be removed is that juniors cannot go outside of the school during lunch. There are three main points to this proposal: The security outside the school (with slight more security due to the amount of students that would be outside) would be able to handle this new rule, students must have their I.D. at all times, therefore they can be asked to show their identification if needed. Also, if this new rule did become part of the handbook, Millard North could create some sort of check in/out system that would require a student to get a "pass" to go outside during lunch, much like the yellow pass system for leaving the classroom.

First of all, is not about open campus, this is about students being able to eat lunch outside by the flagpole during lunch period. The school has security outside of the school, so they could easily track when students that are not seniors are trying to leave. As long as there are not too many students outside, security can plainly see when a student would be trying to get to their car.

Another rule is that students must have their I.D. at all times, since a student has their I.D., a security officer could ask the student for their I.D. if they are trying to go to their car. Also, to reiterate, this rule only applies to juniors, seniors can still have open campus but only juniors can go outside by the flagpole during lunch. It would be better being only juniors rather than everyone because of the amount of students that could sneak out to their cars and come back. Just juniors having this privilege would only be possible, because there would be too many students out of the building if administration let everyone outside.

Lastly, the administration could surely create some sort of a pass system much like the one they use for students who need to use the restroom during class or go to the nurse etc. Security needs to know when students that are juniors go outside of the school return to the school, therefore they would need to create some sort of sign in/out system.

In conclusion, this idea could work if the administration could see the ways they could help make it work. They cannot just say juniors can go outside and let them run free. No, they need a series of systems, which would not be difficult for them. Security also can ask for a student's I.D., and they can plainly see when a student is going to their car. The security guard then can, if needed, ask the student for their identification.

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How would you like to make your own rules? Well if i could the first thing that would get changed would be the hoody rule.

Hoodies keep you warm, some people are always cold and just like having it on. When the lunch bell rings it is nice to just be able to go to a local store and not have to go to your locker all the way across the school building. Not being able to drive takes a little longer to walk to the store so anytime you can save time it's worth it.

Hoodies have never been a problem in school and they never will be. The type of hoody should not matter. Color, markings, how thin or thick they are, pull over or zip up. None of these matter a hoody is a hoody. People express themselves through clothes and a hoody with a football team on it or a band on it. With a brand new hoody with your favorite thing on it makes you feel cool, why not let students feel good about themselves.

When school gets out it's sometimes cold depending on the time of year like winter or just the day to day weather. Maybe it rained or it's cloudy, any of these can make it anywhere from just a little cold to below freezing temperature. Most kids walk home after school or to a day care where they stay till their parent can pick them up. Walking four or five blocks can get very cold and it would be nice to have a hoody on right as you walk outside to go home.

With these three reasons this is why hoodies should be allowed in schools they cause no problems and are nice to have. Also they allow kids to express themselves in a different way.

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Why not cell phones during school? Why can the administration have them out during school? At Louisville we are not allowed to use our cell phone when school is in session. I can understand why we are not allowed to have it during class when the teacher is talking or while your taking a test beacsue if you could do that no one would pay attention during class.

I belevie cell phones should be allowed during your lunch hour, study hall, in a class when you are done with your assignment ,and in between classes during the passing period. I think these times should be allowed because if your done with all your work or you are doing nothing i dont see why we would not be allowed to have them out. For example if you have a class that has friends in it they are bound to talk to each other if they have nothing to do. So would you rather have the kids in that class talking or would you rather have the kids in that class on there cell phones being quiet and checking there facebook, twitter, etc. If I was the teacher i would rather have them on there phone being quiet.

Another reason I think they should be allowed is becasue there not hurting anything or anyone. Even during class today even though you are not allowed to have your phone out kids still take them out during class and I belevie the only reason it is a problem is becasue the teacher takes the phone and the kid that had there phone taken away gets mad or defencive and trys to explain why he had it out. It's kind of the same way when a cop pulls you over for speeding or for having a taillight out you are most likley not going to be happy and you are going to give him an excuse for why you were speeding or why you havent fixed your busted taillight. If it was allowed to have your phone out there would not be this problem and if the teacher did not want you to have it out the teacher could could just tell you to put it away and the kid can get it back out when the teacher is done with the lecture.

Im not the only kid that believes this rule should be changed. Most of the kids think its becasue no other schools around us have changed that rule yet but why dont we be the first!!

Key to Grade 11 – NeSA Writing Rubric/Scoring Training Practice papers.

The following papers received a score 2 in all four domains from both readers:

Page 2 – “I think testing in study hall should be allowed.”

Page 3 – “The handbook committee should change the cell phone rule so that students can use their cell phones during class when they have all of their homework done.”

The following papers received a score of 3 in all four domains from both graders:

Page 4 – “My recommendation for the revised student handbook is to allow the use of phones in students’ free time.”

Page 5 - “The student handbook says many things a student can and cannot do.”

The following papers received a score of 2 from one reader and score of 3 from the other reader. The 2/3 split was in all four domains.

Page 6 – “How would you like to make your own rules?”

Page 7 – “Why not cell phones during school?”