

Literacy Tips



Tips for middle school educators on various topics such as grammar, writing, reading, spelling, vocabulary, cooperative learning and more.

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Tip #75: The SBAs

Although we are only a week away from spring break, preparing students for the Standards Based Assessments (SBAs) when we return is also on our minds. The Department of Education has a lot of resources available that can be shared among the teachers on your team. Reading, writing, and math practice item samplers can be done by any teacher, which reinforces the idea that students are tested in all of our classrooms during testing week. We all have students that physically sit in a science classroom and think that writing doesn't count because they are not in their language arts class. By dividing up test preparation, students see a united effort and the connections between the content areas.

Kind of brain dead and on overload with all the information out there on SBAs? Take a brain break! At the end of this tip, enjoy a link to a web site for creating and using other educators' rubrics. This little gem was sent to me my Art LaRue, 8th grade LA teacher at Clark. He learned about it at the National Middle School Association conference.

Practice Item Samplers

The quickest route for getting to the practice item samplers is by going to www.asdk12.org. At the top of the left-hand column is "*In the Spotlight*." Currently there is an icon for the SBAs that takes you right to the practice item

samplers, both the teacher and student versions.

Reading

The reading practice items for grades 7 and 8 each have one passage followed by six questions. At 7th grade, the passage is a Japanese folktale. At 8th grade, the passage is on Mt. Rushmore. Regardless of the grade level, students get practice with writing short constructed response (2 pts each) and extended constructed responses (4 pts) each. The teacher version explains in detail the rubrics used for scoring and even provides authentic student writing for each type of answer from poor to excellent. Using these as mini-lessons on the overhead projector can help students better visualize how their writing will be scored against rubrics.

Writing

The writing practice items for grades 7 and 8 have eight questions each. Again, students are asked to complete the more common multiple choice items as well as short constructed responses (2 pts) and extended constructed responses (6 pts). The 7th grade extended constructed response asks students to write about a trash problem near the school and the steps that they would take to solve the problem. The 8th grade extended constructed response asks students to write a compare/contrast essay on the ways that we



stay informed in our society. The teacher version gives a student model for each level of the rubric. Seeing how a 1 paper differs from a 6 paper is powerful. You might consider going over the rubric and then challenge your students to order the six samples from weak to strong.

The District Connection

ASD Assessment and Evaluation has excellent links to all of the SBA teacher resources on our internal network. Follow this path:

1. Go to www.asdk12.org.
2. Click on "District Connection." Log on using your last_name_first name and email password.
3. Most of us are familiar with the Assessment Database, which is located at the top of the page under "Secure Applications." The left-hand side of the Assessment Dashboard is where to go for statewide testing data. As you know, you can get Benchmark and Terra Nova history on your students. When you review your student data again, you will see a drop down menu with Teacher Resources for the SBAs listed there. [Attached is a screen shot of what the web page looks like.](#)

The list below is a shortened version of what you will find under Teacher Resources. I especially like the 6-Point Instructional Rubric for Writing. The format is friendly and shows the state descriptors for the six traits of writing. The Test Blueprints are interesting, too. They show the percent of emphasis the test items will cover based on the Grade Level Expectations (GLEs).

- ASD and State Grade Level Expectations
- Practice Item Samplers

- 6-Point Scoring Rubric for Writing Subtests
- 6-Point Instructional Rubric for Writing
- Proficiency Level Descriptors for Reading, Writing, and Math
- Test Blueprints for Reading, Writing, and Math

The Brain Break!

As promised, here is a web site that can save you a lot of time in creating future rubrics for class assignments. Thanks again to Art LaRue from Clark for sharing this.

<http://Rubistar.4teachers.org>



	Far Below Proficient	Below Proficient	Proficient	Advanced
Reading	100-233	234-306	307-367	368-600
Writing	100-191	192-291	292-407	408-600
Mathematics	100-281	282-321	322-395	396-600

Information

Choose a Test: Choose a Class:

Choose Standard: Choose a Grade:

Teacher Resources (open in a new window):

- No Selection --
- No Selection --
- Reading Grade Level Expectations (ASD) Gr. 3 - 10
- Reading Grade Level Expectations (ASD) Gr. 3 - 10
- Reading Grade Level Expectations (State) Gr. 3 - 10
- Reading Grade Level Expectations (State) Gr. 3 - 10
- Reading Grade Level Expectations (State) Gr. 7
- Reading Grade Level Expectations (State) Gr. 8
- Reading SBA Practice Item Sampler Gr.7(Student))
- Reading SBA Practice Item Sampler Gr.7(Teacher)
- Reading SBA Practice Item Sampler Gr.8(Student))
- Reading SBA Practice Item Sampler Gr.8(Teacher)
- Reading SBA Proficiency Descriptors Gr. 7
- Reading SBA Proficiency Descriptors Gr. 8
- Reading SBA Test Blueprint Gr. 3 - 10
- Reading SBA Test Blueprint Gr. 3 - 10
- Writing Grade Level Expectations (ASD) Gr. 3 - 10
- Writing Grade Level Expectations (ASD) Gr. 3 - 10
- Writing Grade Level Expectations (State) Gr. 3 - 10
- Writing Grade Level Expectations (State) Gr. 3 - 10
- Writing Grade Level Expectations (State) Gr. 7
- Writing Grade Level Expectations (State) Gr.8
- Writing SBA Practice Item Sampler Gr.7(Student))
- Writing SBA Practice Item Sampler Gr.7(Teacher))
- Writing SBA Practice Item Sampler Gr.8(Student))
- Writing SBA Practice Item Sampler Gr.8(Teacher))
- Writing SBA Proficiency Descriptors Gr. 7
- Writing SBA Proficiency Descriptors Gr. 8
- Writing SBA Test Blueprint Gr. 3 - 10
- Writing SBA Test Blueprint Gr. 3 - 10
- Math Grade Level Expectations (State) Gr. 3 - 10
- Math Grade Level Expectations (State) Gr. 3 - 10
- Math Grade Level Expectations (State) Gr. 7
- Math Grade Level Expectations (State) Gr. 8
- Math SBA Practice Item Sampler Gr.7(Student))
- Math SBA Practice Item Sampler Gr.7(Teacher))
- Math SBA Practice Item Sampler Gr.8(Student))
- Math SBA Practice Item Sampler Gr.8(Teacher))
- Math SBA Proficiency Descriptors Gr. 7
- Math SBA Proficiency Descriptors Gr. 8
- Math SBA Test Blueprint Gr. 3 - 10
- Math SBA Test Blueprint Gr. 3 - 10
- 6-point Instructional Rubric for Writing
- 6-Point Scoring Rubric for Writing
- TerraNova CAT/6 Guide to Test Interpretation
- TerraNova CAT/6 Guide to Test Interpretation

[Printer Friendly](#) [Sort Alphabetically by Grade \(asc\)](#) [Co](#)

Student ID	State ID	Student Name	Current Grade	Test Grade	Rea. Sc. Sco
2060020	1000000188	Student,20	08	08	27
2060145	1000000215	Student,145	08	08	43
2060227	1000000233	Student,227	08	08	30
2060239	1000000239	Student,239	08	08	36