

Basic Facts about the General Writing Assessment at Grades 4 and 7

- Students at grade 4 and grade 7 take a writing assessment in March.
- Scoring of the assessment is comprised of a content component and a conventions component.
- The North Carolina General Writing Assessment measures the following in content: focus, organization, support and elaboration, and style. In conventions the writing assessment measures sentence formation, usage, and mechanics, which includes spelling.
- Students at grade 4 write an extended narrative response (personal or imaginative). Students at grade 7 write an extended argumentative response (problem/solution or evaluative).
- Approximately one and one-half hours are allotted for the tests at grades 4 and 7. This includes time for test administration duties and, where appropriate, scheduled breaks.

Basic Facts about the General Writing Assessment at Grade 10

- Students at grade 10 take a writing assessment in March.
- Students write an extended informational response (definition or cause/effect).
- Scoring of the assessment is comprised of a content component and a conventions component (sentence formation, usage and mechanics).
- The North Carolina General Writing Assessment measures the following in content: focus, organization, support and elaboration, and style. In conventions the writing assessment measures sentence formation, usage, and mechanics, which includes spelling.
- Algebra I and the combination of English I and the grade 10 writing assessment are used for meeting the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) high school testing requirements.
- Approximately two hours is allotted for this test. This includes time for test administration duties and, where appropriate, scheduled breaks.

October 2006