English Language Arts (ELA) Student Readiness Toolkit: Overview

INTRODUCTION

The English Language Arts (ELA) Student Readiness Toolkit is a standards-based guide designed to help educators determine what information students retained from the previous school year when returning to school after the ordered school closures. It includes a variety of resources classroom teachers can use to identify instructional gaps that may have occurred during remote learning and support students to begin a new school year. The toolkit can be used to supplement what districts may already be doing to prepare for the next school year. It is not to be used as a mandate from the Ohio Department of Education. Educators and districts may pick and choose the resources in the toolkit that they find most useful to help support their students.

ELA GAP ANALYSIS TOOL FOR GRADES K-12

- The English Language Arts Student Readiness Gap Analysis is a new resource that includes all ELA Standards for grades K-12.
- This tool can be used to indicate what was taught to an entire class and is not designed to be a report on individual students.
- Each grade-level gap analysis has a spreadsheet which includes the strand, topic, standard number (i.e., RL.7.4), and the full text of the standard.
- The Gap Analysis Tool includes columns titled taught prior to remote learning, taught during remote learning, and not taught. Teachers can use the tool to identify what and how instruction occurred.
- The Gap Analysis Tool can help teachers determine what standards were addressed in the previous year and what skills students are bringing with them when they return to school in the fall.

ELA PASSAGE TEXT SETS FOR GRADES 3-HIGH SCHOOL

- The ELA passage text sets are specific to grade level and text type (literary or informational).
- Each passage text set contains a literary or informational passage/passage set and the associated test items.
- The text sets include passages along with associated reading and writing items that were released from Spring 2016 through Spring 2019. This material is already on Ohio's Testing Portal, but has been reformatted, organized by genre and is in a printable format making it ease to use.
- A link to the scoring guide is provided on the cover of each passage text set, giving teachers the ability to determine accuracy of student responses.
- Beginning with the released items from 2019, Depth of Knowledge (DOK) designations have been included in the scoring guides. More information regarding Depth of Knowledge (DOK) can be found here.

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- There are passage text sets that include a writing prompt. The scoring guide for writing items includes the writing rubric, samples of student responses, and an annotation for each response that explains the credit earned for that response.
- These passage text sets would be a useful tool for teachers to help determine gaps that should be addressed with instruction. They are available as PDFs so that they can be printed for classroom or sent electronically for remote use.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS PASSAGE TRACKER TOOL

- The ELA Passage Tracker Tools are new resources that are grade-specific spreadsheets that identify the passage/ passage set by text type (literary or informational).
- The tracker identifies the content standards that are assessed by the items in each of the passage/passage sets.
- This would be a useful tool for teachers to use as a convenient means of tracking the type of reading passages and specifically which skills the students have mastered within the standards. It can also give teachers information to provide enrichment to students who have mastered the skill.

NOTE: The Passage Trackers have some passage text sets highlighted to show which sets are also included on the full-length sample tests. The purpose for using the passage text sets and the sample test would vary so it's not recommended to use both passage set texts and the sample test if you do not want students exposed to the passages and items prior to using one tool or the other.

ASSESSMENT LITERACY TOOLS
These materials may give teachers a foundational understanding of several assessment tools that can be used in the classroom. More detail for some of these tools is provided on the toolkit page.

- Test Specifications – How to use in the classroom.
    - Test Specifications for Ohio's State Tests in English Language Arts
- Test Blueprints – How to use in the classroom.
    - Test Blueprints for Ohio's State Tests in English Language Arts
- Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs)
- Understanding Formative, Interim and Summative Assessments in the Classroom
- Video – How Ohio Builds State Tests
- Item Development Sequence
- Roadmap from OST Assessment Development Resources to Classroom Assessment Practices

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS SAMPLE TESTS - *COMING SEPTEMBER 2020*

Full-length sample tests for English Language Arts will be available in the **Student Practice Site** on Ohio's State Test portal in September 2020.

- The sample tests are comprised of released test items.
- Each sample test is the length of an operational test, meets blueprint expectations, and is of similar difficulty.
- The sample tests will be machine-scorable, like the practice tests, for all items **except** the written responses.
- Teachers can have students peer review each others written responses using the writing rubric as a guide.
- Actual student written responses are in the scoring guide and can be used in whole-class instruction to show differences between responses at various score points.
- The sample tests give educators insight into the item and passage types students may see and are a useful tool to inform classroom instruction.
- They can be used by both teachers and parents to help students learn to manage their time, to work in the testing environment, and to help them understand the expectations of the state tests.
- Scoring guides are available for each sample test that include the standard associated with each item. Examples of student responses also are available to illustrate actual work and the corresponding points earned.

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