


**WIDA**<sup>TM</sup>

 ACCESS for ELLs Online  
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# Writing

## Learning Support and Practice

### Setting students up for success on the Writing Test:

- Make plans to support your students' practice by incorporating academic language expectations into their daily writing.
- Think about your students' writing stamina and talk with colleagues about strategies you currently use to help motivate students during writing tasks in the classroom. Determine whether they can be applied on the test.
- Make time in class to discuss any concerns or questions your students may have about unfamiliar testing procedures.
- Think about your students or talk to your colleagues who know them. What would help your ELL students perform their best on a writing task? You know your students best.
  - Advocate for a certain day, time, or group vs. individual writing test administration to help your students successfully demonstrate what they can do.
  - Consider whether any of the accessibility tools offered in WIDA's Accountability and Accessibility Framework are familiar enough to be a support to students.
- Talk to classroom teachers and other colleagues as needed if you feel any of the Grades 4-12 students will experience discomfort or anxiety about typing responses. The Test Administrator may use his or her judgment to switch the student to handwriting response mode. DRC customer service will need to be notified so they can provide further guidance on this situation.
- If Grades 4-12 students are using the handwriting response mode, they will still need to test in front of a desktop, laptop, or tablet. Make sure that the student has enough room to use the device and write in his/her response booklet.
- If Grades 4-12 students experience technical difficulty with the mouse, assist them and model how to click and scroll. Remind them where the answers are found and how to answer a question by clicking.
- In the event the student seems surprised by the amount of space provided for writing, advise the student to follow the directions regarding the amount of writing he/she needs to produce, and assure the student that the space is there only if needed.
- Students in grades 1-3 will stop when they reach the stop sign at the end of each task. Check in with each student individually to confirm they have responded to the task. The check-ins are not meant for evaluation of the student response, just that they have written something. Also use the check-ins to make sure students are not getting overly frustrated or stressed. Never test to the point of complete frustration by the student.
- Students in grades 4-12 do not see stop signs or have scripted check-ins. Follow the recommendations on the Online Test Administrator Script to monitor students and make sure they are progressing through the tasks in a timely manner.
- Help students manage their time during the test by monitoring the time and, if needed, gently ask the student, "Are you close to finishing this part?" If necessary, you can prompt students who are lagging by saying "Make sure you save enough time for the other parts."

## Quick Facts: Writing

- Approximately 70-90 minutes (this includes the convening students, distributing materials, practice items, and scored items. Tier B/C will take longer than Tier A. Visit your member/state page of the [WIDA website](http://wida.wisc.edu) (<https://wida.wisc.edu>) for any additional state and district test timing guidance that applies to your students).
- Student performance on the Listening and Reading tests will determine the appropriate tier for the Writing test.
- Equipment needed: desktop, laptop, or tablet; headphones.
- Materials needed for Grades 1-3: Test Administrator Script, Student Test Booklets, number 2 pencil.
- Materials needed for Grades 4-12: Online Test Administrator Manual, Test Administrator Script, Writing Response Booklets (if needed for Handwriting Response Mode), Student Test Tickets, and Student Test Roster.
- There is a character limit for typed responses. Students typing an appropriate response should not reach this limit.
- Monitor the students' progress to ensure that the INSIGHT test system does not automatically end a student's test session after 30 minutes of no keyboard or mouse activity.

- After they finish, make sure to acknowledge the effort your ELL students put into the writing test!

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**NEED HELP?** Contact the WIDA Client Services Center at [help@wida.us](mailto:help@wida.us) (<mailto:help@wida.us>) or call us toll free **1-866-276-7735**.

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