

TO: WIDA & ASSETS CONSORTIUM
FROM: PAKOU VANG, WIDA & JUSTIN KELLY, CAL
SUBJECT: RE: WIDA ACCESS for ELLs® 2.0 Writing Test: Bias, Sensitivity, and Content Review
DATE: DECEMBER 12, 2014

WIDA and CAL are currently recruiting participants to serve on virtual committees for Bias and Sensitivity and Content reviews for a new series of ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Writing Tests. This is one of several opportunities for educators to be directly involved in the test development process for ACCESS for ELLs 2.0, the computer-delivered academic English language proficiency summative assessment and screener for grades 1–12.

Content under Review

ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Writing Tests (Grades 1-12)

Ensure that the content of the Writing tasks:

- is grade-level appropriate;
- does not contain any topics that students might react negatively to, and;
- does not contain any material that might favor one group of students over another, on the basis of gender, race/ethnicity, home language, religion, culture, region, or socio-economic status.

Participant Background and Requirements

Participants in the reviews should be educators with experience teaching ELLs and with Language Arts or Social Studies content in one of the five grade clusters: Grade 1, Grades 2-3, Grades 4-5, Grades 6-8, and Grades 9-12. All reviewers will need to sign a nondisclosure agreement and will need to participate in all three phases of review for their grade cluster.

Format of Review and Timeline

The Bias and Sensitivity and Content reviews will be conducted virtually in three phases, and participants in the reviews will need to be available during all three phases, as described below:

Phase 1: Training

Date and Time: January 12, 2015, 4:30-5:30 EST

- CAL plans to hold one virtual group training (webinar) for everyone to discuss both Bias and Sensitivity and Content reviewing tasks.

Phase 2: Off-line review

Dates: January 13-18, 2015

- Reviewers will have one week to review the materials they receive prior to the virtual discussion.
- All materials for Grade 1 and Grades 2-3 will be sent as hard copies via FedEx, so reviewers must provide an address where you can receive FedEx deliveries.
- All materials for Grades 4-5, 6-8, and 9-12 will be sent to the reviewers electronically.

Phase 3: Online Bias, Sensitivity, and Content Review and discussion

- After the reviewers have time to review the materials independently, CAL will conduct the Bias, Sensitivity, and Content review webinar to discuss the comments and potential solutions.
- Dates and Times:
 - Grade 1: January 20, 2015, 4:30-5:30 EST
 - Grade 2-3: January 21, 2015, 4:30-5:30 EST
 - Grade 4-5: January 21, 2015, 4:30-5:30 EST
 - Grade 6-8: January 22, 2015, 4:30-5:30 EST
 - Grade 9-12: January 22, 2015, 4:30-5:30 EST

Please distribute this message to educators in your state. If anyone is interested in participating, they need to email Pakou Vang (pakouvang@wisc.edu) by no later than Friday, January 2.

- In the subject line of the email, please indicate: *WIDA ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Writing Test: Bias, Sensitivity, and Content Review.*
- In the body of the email, please indicate interest in participating and include the following information:
 - Name
 - Email Address
 - Phone Number
 - City and State
 - School District
 - Current Grade Cluster Teaching Experience
 - Previous Grade Cluster Teaching Experience

Thank you for your cooperation in recruiting dedicated educators from your state to be involved in the test development process for ACCESS for ELLs 2.0.