Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Program

## Teacher Handbook

## Augmented Benchmark Examination Grade 8

## April 2011 Administration

This document is the property of the Arkansas Department of Education, and all rights of this document are reserved by the Arkansas Department of Education. Arkansas public schools may reproduce this document in full or in part for use with teachers, students, and parents. All other uses of this document are forbidden without written permission from the Arkansas Department of Education. All inquiries should be sent to the Assessment Office at the Arkansas Department of Education, 501-682-4558.
PAGE
Introduction-2011 Grade 8 Augmented Benchmark Examination. .....  1
Scoring Student Responses to Open-Response Items
Reader Training ..... 2
Scoring Procedures ..... 2
Math Item A-2011 Grade 8
Solution and Scoring ..... 5
Math Item A Sample Responses and Annotations-2011 Grade 8
Score: 4 ..... 6
Score: 3 ..... 7
Score: 2 ..... 8
Score: 1 ..... 9
Score: 0 ..... 10
Math Item B-2011 Grade 8
Solution and Scoring ..... 12
Math Item B Sample Responses and Annotations-2011 Grade 8Score: 414
Score: 3 ..... 15
Score: 2 ..... 16
Score: 1 ..... 17
Score: 0 ..... 18
Math Item C-2011 Grade 8
Solution and Scoring ..... 20
Math Item C Sample Responses and Annotations-2011 Grade 8
Score: 4 ..... 21
Score: 3 ..... 22
Score: 2 ..... 23
Score: 1 ..... 24
Score: 0 ..... 25
Reading Passage A-2011 Grade 8 ..... 28
Reading Item A-2011 Grade 8 ..... 31
Reading Item A Sample Responses and Annotations-2011 Grade 8
Score Point: 4 ..... 32
Score Point: 3 ..... 33
Score Point: 2 ..... 33
Score Point: 1 ..... 34
Score Point: 0 ..... 35

## Table of Contents

Reading Passage B-2011 Grade 8 ..... 36
Reading Item B-2011 Grade 8 ..... 39
Reading Item B Sample Responses and Annotations-2011 Grade 8
Score Point: 4 ..... 40
Score Point: 3 ..... 41
Score Point: 2 ..... 42
Score Point: 1 ..... 43
Score Point: 0 ..... 43
Writing Responses
Scoring Student Responses to Writing Prompts ..... 46
Domain Scoring ..... 46
Scoring Scale. ..... 46
Nonscoreable and Blank Papers ..... 46
Writing Domains and Definitions-2011 Grade 8 Augmented Benchmark Examination. ..... 47
Writing Prompt-2011 Grade 8
Prompt ..... 48
Writing Prompt Sample Responses and Annotations-2011 Grade 8
Writing Sample Response 1 ..... 49
Writing Sample Response 2 ..... 51
Writing Sample Response 3 ..... 53

The Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Program (ACTAAP) includes an Augmented Benchmark Examination for grade 8 students. It consists of multiple-choice and open-response items that directly assess student knowledge relative to math, reading, and writing. The Arkansas Curriculum Frameworks are the basis for development of the Augmented Benchmark Examinations.

In April 2011, eighth-grade students participated in the Grade 8 Augmented Benchmark Examination. Results of this examination will be provided to all students, schools, and districts to be used as the basis for instructional change.

This handbook provides information about the scoring of student responses to three open-response items in math, two open-response items in reading, and to one direct writing prompt. It describes the scoring procedures and the scoring criteria (rubrics) used to assess student responses. Copies of actual student responses are provided, along with scores given to those responses, to illustrate how the scoring criteria were applied in each content area.

Additional information about the Grade 8 Augmented Benchmark Examination is available through the Arkansas Department of Education. Questions can be addressed to the Assessment Office at 501-682-4558.

The multiple-choice and open-response test items for the Math, Reading, and Writing components of the Grade 8 Augmented Benchmark Examination are developed with the assistance and approval of Content Advisory Committees. All passages and items on the Grade 8 Augmented Benchmark Examination are based on the Arkansas Curriculum Frameworks and developed with the assistance and approval of Content Advisory Committees and Bias Review Committees. These committees comprise active Arkansas educators with expertise in math, English, and/or language arts education.

While multiple-choice items are scored by machine to determine if the student chose the correct answer from four options, responses to open-response items must be scored by trained "readers" using a pre-established set of scoring criteria.

## Reader Training

Readers are trained to score only one content area. Qualified readers for Arkansas scoring will be those with a four-year college degree in math, English, language arts, education, or related fields.

Before readers are allowed to begin assigning scores to any student responses, they go through intensive training. The first step in that training is for the readers to read the writing prompt, the math open-response item, or the reading passage and its open-response item as it appeared in the test booklet and to respond-just as the student test takers are required to do. This step gives the readers some insight into how the students might have responded. The next step is the readers' introduction to the scoring rubric. All of the specific requirements of the rubric are explained by the Scoring Director who has been specifically trained to lead the scoring group. Then responses (anchor papers) that illustrate the score points of the rubric are presented to the readers and discussed. The goal of this discussion is for the readers to understand why a particular response (or type of response) receives a particular score. After discussion of the rubric and anchor papers, readers practice scoring sets of responses that have been pre-scored and selected for use as training papers. Detailed discussion of the responses and the scores they receive follows.

After three or four of these practice sets, readers are given "qualifying rounds." These are additional sets of prescored papers, and, in order to qualify, each reader must score in exact agreement on at least $80 \%$ of the responses and have no more than $5 \%$ non-adjacent agreement on the responses. Readers who do not score within the required rate of agreement are not allowed to score the Grade 8 Augmented Benchmark Examination responses.

Once scoring of the actual student responses begins, readers are monitored constantly throughout the project to ensure that they are scoring according to the criteria. Daily and cumulative statistics are posted and analyzed, and the Scoring Director or Team Leaders reread selected responses scored by the readers. These procedures promote reliable and consistent scoring. Any reader who does not maintain an acceptable level of agreement is dismissed from the project.

## Scoring Procedures

All student responses to the Grade 8 Augmented Benchmark Examination open-response test items are scored independently by two readers. Those two scores are compared, and responses that receive scores that are nonadjacent (a " 1 " and a " 3 ," for example) are scored a third time by a Team Leader or the Scoring Director for resolution.

This Teacher Handbook includes the math open-response items, reading passages with their open-response items, and a writing prompt as they appeared in this year's test. The specific scoring rubric for each item and annotated response for each score point of the rubric follows. The goal is for classroom teachers and their students to understand how responses are scored. It is hoped that this understanding will help students see what kind of performance is expected of them on the Grade 8 Augmented Benchmark Examination.

## MATH RESPONSES

A A pizza parlor uses the expression $0.75 s+6.75$ to calculate the price, in dollars, for a small pizza that has $s$ toppings.

1. How many toppings are on a small pizza that has a price of $\$ 10.50$ ? Show your work and/or explain your answer.
2. The pizza parlor uses the expression $1.35 t+13.65$ to calculate the price for a large pizza that has $t$ toppings. What is the price of a large pizza that has the same number of toppings you found in Part 1? Show your work and/or explain your answer.

BE SURE TO LABEL YOUR RESPONSES 1 AND 2.

## Math Item A Scoring Rubric-2011 Grade 8

| Score | Description |
| :---: | :--- |
| $\mathbf{4}$ | The student earns 4 points. The response contains no incorrect work. <br> " "" included in Part 2. |
| $\mathbf{3}$ | The student earns 3 points. |
| $\mathbf{2}$ | The student earns 2 points. |
| $\mathbf{1}$ | The student earns 1 point, or minimal understanding is shown. |
| $\mathbf{0}$ | The student earns 0 points. No understanding is shown. |
| $\mathbf{B}$ | Blank-No Response. A score of "B" will be reported as "NA." (No attempt to answer <br> the item. Score of "0" is assigned for the item.) |

Solution and Scoring

| Part | Points |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 2 points possible <br> 2 points: Correct answer: 5 <br> and <br> Correct and complete procedure. <br> Give credit for the following or equivalent: <br> - $0.75 s+6.75=\$ 10.50$ <br> $0.75 s=10.5-6.75$ <br> $s=\frac{3.75}{.75}$ <br> - $6.75+.75=7.50 \quad(1$ topping) <br> $7.50+.75=8.25 \quad(2$ toppings) <br> $8.25+.75=9.00 \quad(3$ toppings $)$ <br> $9.00+.75=9.75 \quad(4$ toppings $)$ <br> $9.75+.75=10.50$ ( 5 toppings) <br> - A correct and complete table up to at least 5 toppings. <br> - Guess \& Check showing at least one value that doesn't 'check', and showing that value 5 does. $\begin{aligned} & 0.75 \bullet(3)+6.75=9 \neq 10.5 \\ & 0.75 \bullet(5)+6.75=10.5 \end{aligned}$ <br> OR <br> 1 point: Correct answer: 5 <br> Procedure is missing, incomplete, or incorrect. <br> or <br> Incorrect answer due to one copy, calculation, or rounding error, with correct and complete procedure. |
| 2 | 2 points possible <br> 2 points: Correct answer: $\quad \$ 20.40$ <br> Answer may be based on an incorrect answer in Part 1. <br> and <br> Correct and complete procedure shown or explained: <br> Give credit for the following or equivalent: <br> - $1.35 \cdot(5)+13.65=6.75+13.65=20.40$ <br> - $13.65+1.35+1.35+1.35+1.35+1.35=20.40$ <br> OR <br> 1 point: Correct answer: $\mathbf{2 0 . 4 0}$ <br> Procedure missing, incomplete, or incorrect. Answer may be based on an incorrect answer in Part 1. <br> or <br> An incorrect answer due to one copy, calculation, or rounding error with correct and complete procedure. |

## Score: 4

| Part 1 |  | Points |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Correct Answer:  <br> and 5 toppings <br> Correct Procedure: Guess \& Check <br>  $.75(3)+6.75=9.00$ (crossed out) <br> $.75(5)+6.75=10.50$ $\mathbf{2}$ |  |  |

## Part 2

| Correct Answer: <br> and <br> Correct Procedure: | $\$ 20.40$ |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |



## Score: 3

| Part 1 |  | Points |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Correct Answer: 5 toppings <br> and $10.5=0.75 \mathrm{~S}+6.75$ <br> Correct Procedure: $\frac{3.75}{0.75}=\frac{0.75 \mathrm{~S}}{0.75}$ |  |  |

## Part 2

| Incorrect Answer: <br> and <br> Correct Procedure (with <br> calculation error): | 14.65 |  |
| :--- | :--- | :---: |
|  | $\mathrm{C}=1.35(5)+13.65$ | $\mathbf{1}$ |

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { 2. } C=1.35(5)+13.65 \\
& C=6.75+13.65 \\
& C=14.65
\end{aligned}
$$

## Score: 2

| Part 1 |
| :--- |
| Correct Answer: <br> and <br> Correct Procedure: $\mathrm{S}=5,5$ toppings Points$0.75 \mathrm{~S}+6.75=10.50$ <br> $0.75 \mathrm{~S}=3.75$ |

Part 2

| Incorrect Answer: <br> and <br> Incorrect Procedure: | $\$ 13.50$ | - |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | $1.35 \cdot 5+6.75$ (mixing Part 2 and Part 1 <br> expressions) | - |



## Score: 1



## Part 2

| Incorrect Answer: | $\$ 20.60$. Using 5.1, answer would be $\$ 20.54$. |  |
| :--- | :--- | :---: |
| and | $1.35 t+13.65$ | - |
| Correct Procedure (with 2 | $1.35(5.1)+13.65$ |  |
| rounding errors): | 6.9 (rounding err.) +13.65 |  |
|  | $\$ 20.60$ (rounding err.) |  |
| Total Points |  |  |



| Part 1 |  | Points |
| :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Incorrect Answer: <br> and 14 toppings <br> Incorrect Procedure: $10.50 \div .75=14$ | - |  |

Part 2

| Incorrect Answer: <br> and <br> Incorrect Procedure: | $\$ 27.15$ | - |
| :--- | :--- | :---: |
|  | $1.35 \times 10+13.65=$ <br> Using an incorrect value (10) that is not <br> from Part 1. | Total Points |



B The picture below shows figure $V W X Y$ drawn on a coordinate plane.


1. On the grid in your Student Answer Document draw a coordinate plane. On the coordinate plane, reflect figure $V W X Y$ over the $y$-axis and label your new figure $V^{\prime} W^{\prime} X^{\prime} Y^{\prime}$.
2. On the coordinate plane, rotate the original figure $V W X Y 90^{\circ}$ clockwise about the origin and label this new figure $P Q R S$.

BE SURE TO LABEL YOUR RESPONSES 1 AND 2.

## Math Item B Scoring Rubric-2011 Grade 8

| Score | Description |
| :---: | :--- |
| $\mathbf{4}$ | The student earns 4 points. The response contains no incorrect work. |
| $\mathbf{3}$ | The student earns $3-3^{1 / 2}$ points. |
| $\mathbf{2}$ | The student earns $2-2^{1 / 2}$ points. |
| $\mathbf{1}$ | The student earns $1 / 2-1 \frac{1}{2}$ points, or minimal understanding is shown. |
| $\mathbf{0}$ | The student earns 0 points. No understanding is shown. |
| $\mathbf{B}$ | Blank-No Response. A score of "B" will be reported as "NA." (No attempt to answer <br> the item. Score of " 0 " is assigned for the item.) |

## Solution and Scoring




## Score: 4

| Part 1 |  | Points |
| :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Correct Figure V'W'X'Y': | Figure drawn with: <br> • consistent intervals on both axes <br> • vertices correctly labeled <br> • vertices correctly reflected over y-axis | $\mathbf{2}$ |

Part 2

| Correct Figure PQRS: | Figure drawn with: <br> $\bullet$ vertices correctly labeled <br> $\bullet$ <br> vertices correctly rotated $90^{\circ}$ clockwise | $\mathbf{2}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Total Points |  | 4 |



SCORE: 3
Part 1
Points

|  | Figure drawn with: <br> Correct Figure V'W'X'Y': <br> $\bullet$ <br> $\bullet$ <br> $\bullet$ <br> • vertistes correctly labeled correctly reflected over y-axis | $\mathbf{2}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |

## Part 2

|  | Figure drawn with: <br> $\bullet$ vertices correctly labeled <br> $\bullet$ vertices of Figure V'W'X'Y' <br> rotated $90^{\circ}$ clockwise (rotation of <br> Part 1) | $\mathbf{1}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Total Points |  |  |



## Score: 2

Part 1

|  | Figure drawn with: <br> $\bullet$ inconsistent intervals on x-axis <br> • vertices correctly labeled <br> • vertices correctly reflected over <br> y-axis | $\mathbf{1}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| V'W'X'Y': |  |  |

## Part 2

| Partially correct Figure PQRS: | Figure drawn with: <br> - vertices correctly labeled <br> - 3 vertices correctly rotated $90^{\circ}$ clockwise; S(-1½,1) incorrect | 1 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total Points |  | 2 |



SCORE: 1
Part 1
Points

| Partially correct Figure V'W'X'Y': | Figure drawn with: <br> - consistent intervals on both axes <br> - vertices correctly labeled <br> - 3 vertices correctly reflected over y -axis; $\mathrm{Y}^{\prime}(1 / 2,-2)$ incorrect | 1 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |

## Part 2



Part 1

| Incorrect Figure V'W'X'Y': | Figure drawn with: <br> $\bullet$ <br> $\bullet$ <br> $\bullet$ <br> vertices correctly labeled | - |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |

## Part 2

| Incorrect Figure PQRS: | Figure drawn with: <br> - vertices correctly labeled PQRS <br> - 3 vertices translated 5 units up | - |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total Points |  | 0 |

Points
Figure drawn with:

- vertices translated 4 units to the right

C Each section of the spinner below is the same size.


1. What is the probability that the next time the arrow is spun it will land on a section labeled Red? Show your work or explain how you got your answer.
2. If the arrow is spun 100 times, how many times can it be expected to land on a section labeled 3 or Green? Show your work or explain how you got your answer.

BE SURE TO LABEL YOUR RESPONSES 1 AND 2.

Math Item C Scoring Rubric-2011 Grade 8

| Score | Description |
| :---: | :--- |
| $\mathbf{4}$ | The student earns 4 points. The response contains no incorrect work. |
| $\mathbf{3}$ | The student earns $3-31 / 2$ points. |
| $\mathbf{2}$ | The student earns $2-2^{1 / 2}$ points. |
| $\mathbf{1}$ | The student earns $1 / 2-1 \frac{1}{2}$ points, or minimal understanding is shown. |
| $\mathbf{0}$ | The student earns 0 points. No understanding is shown. |
| $\mathbf{B}$ | Blank-No Response. A score of "B" will be reported as "NA." (No attempt to answer <br> the item. Score of " 0 " is assigned for the item.) |

## Solution and Scoring

| Part | Points |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 2 points possible <br> 1 point: Correct answer: $\frac{3}{8}, 3: 8, .375,37.5 \%$, or equivalent <br> OR <br> $1 / 2$ point: Rounded or truncated answer: .37,.38, $37 \%, 38 \%$, or equivalent <br> AND <br> 1 point: Correct explanation: <br> Give credit for the following or equivalent. <br> - There are 8 total sections and 3 are red. |
| 2 | 2 points possible <br> 1 point: Correct answer: <br> - 62.5 <br> or <br> - 62 <br> or <br> - 63 <br> AND <br> 1 point: Correct explanation: <br> Give credit for the following or equivalent. <br> - There are 8 total sections and 5 of them are either 3 or green. So the probability is $5 /$. Then multiply $5 / 8$ times 100 . <br> - The probability of 3 or green is $5 / 8$ because there are 3 " 3 's" and 2 greens and 8 altogether. $\begin{aligned} & \frac{5}{8}=\frac{x}{100} \\ & x=\frac{500}{8} \\ & x=62.5 \end{aligned}$ <br> - $\frac{5}{8} \cdot 100=62.5$ <br> OR <br> $1 / 2$ point: Incomplete explanation: <br> Give credit for the following or equivalent. <br> - An incomplete but not incorrect explanation that shows the probability is 5 . " 5 of the 8 sections are 3 or green." |

SCORE: 4


## Part 2




Yo would expert th apron to tend on a sect in tablet 3 or a


## Score: 3

Part 1

| Correct Answer: | $3 / 8$ | Points |
| :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Correct Explanation: | "There are 8 different sections...and there <br> are 3 reds." | $\mathbf{1}$ |

## Part 2

| Incorrect Answer: | "the answer is $62 \%$ or $62 / 100 "$ | - |
| :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Correct Explanation: | "There are three 3 "s, and 2 green" <br> $5 / 8=x / 100$ | $\mathbf{1}$ |
| Total Points |  | $\mathbf{3}$ |
|  |  |  |


on a 3 or gree
is $62 / 00$ or $62^{\circ} \% \quad \frac{5}{8}=\frac{x}{100} \quad \frac{8 x}{8}=\frac{600}{8}$
There are three Zs, $x=62$. and 2 green so trite would be $5 / \mathrm{s}$ and wow and the ans my yipe th in an right

Score: 2
Part 1

| Correct Answer: | $3 / 8$ | Points |
| :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Correct Explanation: | "Blue=1 Yellow=2 Red=3 Green=2" <br> $1+2+3+2=8$ | $\mathbf{1}$ |

Part 2

| Incorrect Answer: | $5 / 8$ | - |
| :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Incomplete Explanation: | Calculates probability and stops. | $11 / 2$ |
| Total Points |  | $\mathbf{2}^{112}$ |
|  |  |  |



## Score: 1

| Part 1 |  | Points |
| :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Correct Answer: | $" 3 / 8$ chance" | $\mathbf{1}$ |
| Missing Explanation: |  | - |

## Part 2



$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { 1. Arrow has } 3 / 8 \text { chance of landing on the red } / \text { es. }
\end{aligned}
$$

Score: 0

| Part 1 |  | Points |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Incorrect Answer: |  |  | "high chance" $\quad$ -

## Part 2

| Incorrect Answer: | $11 / 25$ | - |
| :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Incorrect Explanation: | Adds the 8 numbers on the wheel. $3+3=6$, <br> $4+3+2=9,5+4=9,6+9+1+9=25$. <br> Divides 100 by 9. | - |
|  | Total Points |  |



# READING RESPONSES 

# Tortilla History 

by Rosa Gonzales

To tell the story of the tortilla, which is like a thin pancake made of ground corn (pronounced tor-TEE-yah, not tor-TILL-uh), I shall begin with the story of corn.

2 Corn is a New World food. The earliest Indians in what later became New Mexico were nomads who roamed around killing animals for food. But when they learned to grow corn and dry it so they would have food to last them through the winter, their way of life was changed. They could stay in one place and farm.

Later, when the Spanish conquistadores came to this land, corn was one of the first foods they found. The Indians taught the Spaniards how to grow corn. The Spaniards called this new food maiz, which is "maize" in English. There are many different kinds of corn. It even comes in colors, such as blue.


There were two ways to prepare corn for making tortillas. The first way, women cooked dry white corn in lime water until the hulls were loosened. This was called nixtamal. After they washed it to get rid of the lime, they spread the corn on a slab of volcanic rock, called a metate, and rolled a smaller rock shaped like a rolling pin, called a mano, back and forth over the nixtamal, grinding the corn into a paste called masa. It took about an hour to grind one gallon of nixtamal fine enough to make the masa used for making tortillas and tamales.

5 The second way, they ground dried corn into very fine cornmeal called harina de maiz that was sifted through a horsehair sieve. My great grandmother (who is 101 years old and lives in Taos) used to grind the corn for her tortillas this way. It is hard, tiring work. Cornmeal mixed with water was used to make tortillas, gorditas (like thick pancakes) and tamales. Today you can buy cornmeal at the supermarket.

6 In the old days the women used to make the tortillas by hand. They would flatten a lump of dough between their palms to make it round and very thin. Now you can make them in a tortilla press. Then you cook them on a comal, a flat frying pan without a rim. My father gave my mother a tortilla press for her birthday as a joke, but we buy our tortillas at the supermarket.

Here are six ways to eat corn tortillas:

1. Cut them in strips, fry them, and put them in soup.
2. Cut them in strips, fry them, and cook them with tomatoes and chile to make chilaquiles.
3. Fry them and cut them in triangles to make tostadas for dipping in salsa or chile con queso, which is melted cheese and chile.
4. Dip them in hot oil, fold them over, and fill them with meat and lettuce and tomatoes and hot sauce to make tacos.
5. Use them to make enchiladas or huevos rancheros.
6. Use them as a scoop for eating beans and other things.

Cornmeal is also used to make tamales. Spicy meat is wrapped in masa. The meat and dough are then wrapped in cornhusks called hojas, which have been soaked all night in a washtub. The tamales are steamed in a big pot. This is what my mother calls labor intensive.

Two things to remember about tamales:

1. Don't ever eat the hoja. Once President Gerald Ford tried to eat the cornhusk at a picnic in Texas and was very embarrassed when he found out that part isn't eaten.
2. Tamales means more than one. If you eat only one, it's called a tamal, not a "tamally."

In Mexico most people eat corn tortillas, but New Mexicans often prefer flour tortillas made from white flour, water, and shortening, rolled out with a rolling pin and baked on a comal. You eat them plain or make a burrito, a little donkey: wrap a flour tortilla around some kind of filling-meat or beans or scrambled eggs and bacon-and pour red or green chile over the top and sprinkle it with cheese. (My mother says there is too much fat in all of this food, but it is delicious.)

My father, who is from the Rio Grande Valley in South Texas, told me a story about a poor man who went to work for a rich man. The poor man bragged to the rich man that he was so wealthy he had a different spoon for every meal and never used the same spoon twice. The "spoon" he was talking about was a tortilla.

A What are the two different ways to prepare corn for making tortillas?
Give at least two examples from the passage of how tortillas can be used once they are made.

## Reading Item A Scoring Rubric- 2011 Grade 8

| Score | Description |
| :---: | :---: |
| 4 | The response identifies the two different ways to prepare corn for making tortillas and gives at least two accurate and relevant examples of how tortillas are used. |
| 3 | The response identifies the two different ways to prepare corn for making tortillas and gives one accurate and relevant example of how tortillas are used. <br> OR <br> The student identifies one way to prepare corn for making tortillas and gives two accurate and relevant examples of how tortillas are used. |
| 2 | The response identifies the two different ways to prepare corn for making tortillas. <br> OR <br> The response gives two accurate and relevant examples of how tortillas are used. <br> OR <br> The response identifies one way to prepare corn for making tortillas and gives one accurate and relevant example of how tortillas are used. |
| 1 | The response identifies one way to prepare corn for making tortillas. <br> OR <br> The response gives one accurate and relevant example of how tortillas are used. <br> OR <br> The response displays minimal understanding of the question. |
| 0 | Response is incorrect or irrelevant. |
| B | Blank—No Response. A score of "B" will be reported as "NA." (No attempt to answer the item. Score of " 0 " is assigned for the item.) |

Score Point: 4
The response identifies the two different ways to prepare corn for making tortillas ("cooked dry white corn in lime water until the hulls were loosened"; "they grinded dried corn into very fine cornmeal called 'haring de maiz' that was shifted through a horsehair sieve") and gives at least two accurate and relevant examples of how tortillas are used ("you can cut them in strips, fry them and put them in soup"; "use them as a scoop for eating, beans and 'other things'"). The response demonstrates a thorough understanding of the passage.

There are two ways to prepare corn for making tortillas for the passage and they ore.. First, wormen cooked cry athik corn in lime water until the bulls were kosenco. Den they washed the lime off, then speed. the corn on a volcanic rock called ci "mutate", then rolled a smaller rock outer it called a "mans". They grimed it back and forth in to a paste. Second, they grincled dried corn into very fine commeal called er harina de mai" that was shifted thought a horse hair sieve. Two ways tortillas con be used once they are made are.. First, you can cut them in strips, fry then and pt them in soup. Next, use them os a scop for eating, beans and "o the things."

## Score Point： 3

The student identifies one way to prepare corn for making tortillas（＂cook dry white corn in lime water until the hulls are loosen then spread corn on volcanic rock then roll a mano back and forth over it＂）and gives two accurate and relevant examples of how tortillas are used（＂used to make enchaladias＂；＂use them as a scoop for eating beans and other things＂）．The response provides evidence of a general but not comprehensive understanding of the passage．


## Score Point： 2

The response identifies the two different ways to prepare corn for making tortillas（＂cook the white corn in lime water until the hulls were loosened＂；＂to sift it through a horsehair sieve＂）．This is an example of a basic understanding of the passage．

You could cook the suite corn in lime water unto the hathor bert loosened，then they wash all the lime water off，then put it on a volcanic rock，mettle，and roll smaller rock shaped like a bowing pin，mans．back and both over the nixtamoul， grinding the corn into a paste called mana．Another mulls和 sift it through a herschair steve．

Score Point: 1
The response identifies one way to prepare corn for making tortillas ("ground dried corn into very fine cornmeal called harina de maiz that was sifted through a horsehair sieve"). The response is inadequate and provides evidence of minimal understanding.


Score Point: 0
There is no evidence that the student understands the task. The response is irrelevant.



1 Sequoya and his daughter Ah-yoka stood before the Cherokee Tribal Council. They knew they had to convince the Council members that Sequoya's sound alphabet was not a trick; they had to persuade the council that with Sequoya's alphabet the Cherokee people could read and write in their own language.

Two warriors escorted Ah-yoka out of the room. The Cherokee chiefs then told Sequoya messages which he wrote
down on a piece of paper, using the sound symbols he had created.

When Ah-yoka returned, she took the piece of paper and read the chiefs' exact words to the astonished council. Sequoya had indeed captured their words on paper!

4 Sequoya's success crowned many years of hard, lonely, and frustrating work. Yet with the completion of his alphabet, Sequoya accomplished what no other person in history had done.

He had invented a written language from the spoken words of a people.

Sequoya was born in the hills of Tennessee around 1775 , just before the American Revolution. Sequoya's father, Nathaniel Guess, was a white trader and his mother, Wah-teh, was a Cherokee. Shortly after Sequoya was born, his father left the family to help General George Washington fight against the British.

Sometime in his youth one of Sequoya's legs grew lame, either by a disease or by an accident. Because he could not run or hunt as well as his companions, Sequoya turned his energies to drawing and painting pictures of people and animals. Later he used his artistic skills to become one of the Cherokees' finest silversmiths and blacksmiths.

As he grew up, Sequoya became puzzled by the white man's "talking leaves," pieces of paper crowded with black ink marks. He began to wonder how the "talking leaves" carried words that "spoke" to those who received them. Sequoya realized that if the Cherokee people had their own "talking leaves," they could communicate with one another across long distances, and they could record their ancient lore and legends.

Sequoya decided to make Cherokee "talking leaves." Using his talents as an artist, he first began drawing pictures for every word in the Cherokee language. Soon he had hundreds of pictures drawn on pieces of bark.

Sequoya continued to draw more and more words, often neglecting his farm and family. The pile of bark pictures grew so large that one day his wifewho was angry at him for wasting his time on the alphabet-threw all of the bark pictures into a fire and destroyed them.

Sequoya remained undaunted. Taking his young daughter Ah-yoka with him, Sequoya went to a cabin in the woods to continue his work.

One day Ah-yoka found an old English spelling book. Sequoya knew that the key to understanding the "talking leaves" was in this book. Although Sequoya could not speak or read English, he figured out that 26 characters were repeated over and over to make up the words.

This was the clue that Sequoya needed. He stopped drawing a picture for each word and instead began making symbols for every sound in the Cherokee language. He created 85 symbols, each of which represented a Cherokee syllable.

Then disaster struck again. Other Indians, thinking that Sequoya was making magic in his log cabin, came when he was away and burned his cabin to the ground. His work was ruined once more. Yet Sequoya remembered his syllable symbols, and with Ah-yoka's help, he wrote them on a piece of buckskin.

By this time the Cherokee tribe lived in two areas far apart. Some of the tribe lived west of the Mississippi

River, while others remained in their ancestral homeland in the mountains of the Southeast. Sequoya lived in Arkansas, but he knew that if his alphabet was to be truly successful, he had to convince the Cherokee Tribal Council in the Southeast that his alphabet was valuable for all Cherokee peoples.

That was when Sequoya and Ahyoka passed their crucial test before the Cherokee Tribal Council.

Sequoya's alphabet-or syllabary, as it is more properly called-was easy to learn. Soon Cherokees of all ages were practicing writing the symbols. Sequoya's alphabet appeared on rocks, fence posts, and even on the inside walls of homes.

Using the alphabet, the two groups of the Cherokee tribe communicated through letters, sharing news of family and friends. Within a few years the first Indian newspaper, the Cherokee Phoenix, was published. The newspaper was bilingual—everything
printed in Cherokee was also translated into English. A press began printing Bibles, pamphlets, and other materials using Sequoya's alphabet for the Cherokees.

Sequoya became famous throughout the United States and Europe. His was a remarkable accomplishment. A special medal was made for him which he wore for the rest of his life. Sequoya was also given $\$ 500$ a year as a reward for his efforts. This was the first literary prize ever given in America.

Sequoya's fascination with language continued all of his life. He died in Mexico while on an arduous journey attempting to discover if all Indian languages came from one language. While Sequoya's gravesite is unknown, he will always be remembered as the man who gave "talking leaves" to the Cherokee Nation.

In honor of Sequoya's contributions to his people, the giant sequoia trees were named for him. Sequoia National Park also bears the name of this quiet but determined man.

B What are two problems that Sequoya had to overcome to write the Cherokee alphabet?

Using details from the passage, explain how Sequoya overcame each problem.

## Reading Item B Scoring Rubric-2011 Grade 8

| Score | Description |
| :---: | :--- |
| $\mathbf{4}$ | The response provides two problems that Sequoya had to overcome to write the <br> Cherokee alphabet and explains how he overcame each problem with accurate and <br> relevant details from the passage. |
| $\mathbf{3}$ | The response provides two problems that Sequoya had to overcome to write the <br> Cherokee alphabet and explains how he overcame one problem with accurate and <br> relevant details from the passage. |
| $\mathbf{2}$ | The response provides two problems that Sequoya had to overcome to write the <br> Cherokee alphabet, but fails to explain how he overcame either problem. <br> OR |
| The response provides one problem that Sequoya had to overcome to write the |  |
| Cherokee alphabet and explains how he overcame the problem with accurate and |  |
| relevant details from the passage. |  |

## Score Point: 4

The response provides two problems that Sequoya had to overcome to write the Cherokee alphabet ("cabin being burned down"; "had to convince the Tribal Council that his alphabet was valuable") and explains how he overcame each problem with accurate and relevant details from the passage ("remembered all 85 symbols and wrote them down on buckskin"; "When Ah-yoka returned, she took the piece of paper and read the Chiefs' exact words to the astonished council""). The response demonstrates a thorough understanding of the passage.

One problem sequoya nad to overcome
was his cabin being borneol covin. All the symitots he had creates for the sytatoborthe Cherokee has been bunged. He overcame this with his dusters helper Together they hadremamsered all $855 y$ mitela indurate them cow on buckskin. The passage skates: Yet squad rememseral his syllable sypmbels,aneiwith th-yokic.'s hell, He wrote themon a pike of buckskin. Then he had to convince the Tribal bound that his alphabet was thluable tor allowerakee papples. His clavghter help himover cone this one. by bairns able tared the symbols. The passage states" When Ah-gokei returned, she hook thepise of paper and read thetohiers' exact words to the astonished council."

Score Point: 3
The response provides two problems that Sequoya had to overcome to write the Cherokee alphabet ("burned his cabin to the ground"; "Couldn't speak or Read English") and explains how he overcame one problem with accurate and relevant details from the passage ("he figured that 26 characters were repeated over and over to make words"). The response provides evidence of a general but not comprehensive understanding of the passage.

Two probleus sequaja had to overcome are Other Indeans, aud he couldst speaker head english.


Score Point: 2
The response provides one problem that Sequoya had to overcome to write the Cherokee alphabet ("Sequoya could not read English") and explains how he overcame the problem with accurate and relevant details from the passage ("figured out that 26 characters were repeated to make up words"). This is an example of a basic understanding of the passage.


Score Point: 1
The response provides one problem that Sequoya had to overcome to write the Cherokee alphabet ("his wife who was angry at him for wasting his time on the alphabet"). The response is inadequate and provides evidence of minimal understanding.


Score Point: 0
There is no evidence that the student understands the task. The response is incorrect.


## Acknowledgments-2011 Grade 8

## Acknowledgments

The Arkansas Department of Education would like to thank those who have granted permission to reproduce the following copyrighted material:

## Text

Pages 28-30: "Tortilla History" by Rosa Gonzales from RIO GRANDE STORIES. Copyright © 1994 by Carlyn Meyer. Reprinted by permission of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company.
Pages 36-38: "Sequoya and the Talking Leaves" by Peter Roop. From COBBLESTONE's February 1984 issue: The Cherokee Indians. Copyright © 1984, Cobblestone Publishing, Peterborough, New Hampshire. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission of Carus Publishing Company.

# WRITING RESPONSES 

## Scoring Student Responses to Writing Prompts

## Domain Scoring

In domain scoring, which was developed in conjunction with Arkansas educators, the observation of writing is divided into several domains (categories), each composed of various features. The domains scored for Arkansas compositions are Content, Style, Sentence Formation, Usage, and Mechanics. (These domains are defined on the following page.) Each domain is evaluated holistically; the domain score indicates the extent to which the features in that domain appear to be under the control of the writer. The score reflects the student's performance for the entire domain with all features within the domain being of equal importance.

All responses are read independently by at least two readers. The two scores are averaged by domain. In cases where the two readers' scores are non-adjacent (a " 1 " and a " 3 ," for example) in any domain, the response is read by a third reader for resolution.

The domain scores, along with an awareness of the features comprising each domain, can be used to plan developmental or remedial instruction for the student.

## Scoring Scale

Each domain is scored independently using the following scale:
$4=$ The writer demonstrates consistent, though not necessarily perfect, control* of almost all of the domain's features.
$\mathbf{3}=$ The writer demonstrates reasonable, but not consistent, control* of most of the domain's features, indicating some weakness in the domain.
$\mathbf{2}=$ The writer demonstrates inconsistent control* of several of the domain's features, indicating significant weakness in the domain.
$\mathbf{1}=$ The writer demonstrates little or no control ${ }^{*}$ of most of the domain's features.
*Control: The ability to use a given feature of written language effectively at the appropriate grade level. A response receives a higher score to the extent that it demonstrates control of the features in each domain.

The application of the scale, using actual student writing, was done with the assistance of a committee of Arkansas teachers and representatives of the Arkansas Department of Education.

## Nonscoreable and Blank Papers

Nonscoreable papers include student responses that are off-topic, illegible, incoherent, written in a language other than English, or too brief to assess. Nonscoreable papers will receive a score of " 0 ." Blank papers indicate no response was written and will be reported as NA (no attempt), which translates into a score of " 0. ."

## Writing Domains and Definitions-

## 2011 Grade 8 Augmented Benchmark Examination

## Content (C)

The Content domain includes the focusing, structuring, and elaborating that a writer does to construct an effective message for a reader. It is the creation of a product, the building of a composition intended to be read. The writer crafts his/her message for the reader by focusing on a central idea, providing elaboration of the central idea, and delivering the central idea and its elaboration in an organized text. Features are:

- Central idea
- Unity
- Elaboration
- Organization


## Style (S)

The Style domain comprises those features that show the writer is purposefully shaping and controlling language to affect readers. This domain focuses on the vividness, specificity, and rhythm of the piece and the writer's attitude and presence. Features are:

- Selected vocabulary
- Selected information
- Sentence variety
- Tone
- Voice


## Sentence Formation (F)

The Sentence Formation domain reflects the writer's ability to form competent, appropriately mature sentences to express his/her thoughts. Features are:

## - Completeness

- Expansion through standard coordination and modifiers
- Standard word order
- Embedding through standard subordination and modifiers
- Absence of fused sentences


## Usage (U)

The Usage domain comprises the writer's use of word-level features that cause written language to be acceptable and effective for standard discourse. Features are:

- Standard inflections
- Word meaning
- Agreement
- Conventions


## Mechanics (M)

The Mechanics domain includes the system of symbols and cueing devices a writer uses to help readers make meaning. Features are:

- Capitalization
- Formatting
- Punctuation
- Spelling

This is one of the two writing prompts administered to all grade 8 students in April 2011.

## Prompt

A committee of students is creating a wall painting in your school that will feature people from your community. The committee is asking each student to choose one person to include in the painting.

Before you begin to write, think about people from your community. Choose one person to be featured in the painting. Why do you think this person should be included?

Now write an essay about the person from your community you think should be featured in the wall painting. Be sure to name the person and give reasons this person should be included. Give enough detail so that the committee will understand.

## WRITER'S CHECKLIST

1. Look at the ideas in your response.
$\qquad$ Have you focused on one main idea?
$\qquad$ Have you used enough detail to explain yourself?
$\qquad$ Have you put your thoughts in order?
$\qquad$ Can others understand what you are saying?
2. Think about what you want others to know and feel after reading your paper.
$\qquad$ Will others understand how you think or feel about an idea?
Will others feel angry, sad, happy, surprised, or some other way about your response? (Hint: Make your reader feel like you do about your paper's subject.)
___ Do you have sentences of different lengths? (Hint: Be sure you have a variety of sentence lengths.)

Are your sentences alike? (Hint: Use different kinds of sentences.)
3. Look at the words you have used.
$\qquad$ Have you described things, places and people the way they are? (Hint: Use enough detail.)
$\qquad$ Are you the same person all the way through your paper? (Hint: Check your verbs and pronouns.)
_ Have you used the right words in the right places?
4. Look at your handwriting.
___Can others read your handwriting with no trouble?

## Writing Sample Response 1

## Content: 4

This response has a clear central idea (why Fireman B - should be chosen for the wall painting) and is fully and consistently elaborated with supporting details ("he risks his life going into an inferno"; "he's a natural hero"; "From that day forth B- worked 24 hours a day"). There is clear organization and an effective closure that sums up and extends the ideas in the piece. This response demonstrates consistent control of the Content domain.

Style: 4
The writer of this response uses vivid, precise vocabulary ("blazing fire"; "inferno"; "idolizes") and purposefully selected information ("A drunk driver t-boned her into a tree and she didn't have her seatbelt on") throughout the response. The variety in sentence beginnings and lengths creates interest. An adoring tone is maintained throughout, and the writer's voice is strong. This response demonstrates consistent control of the Style domain.

## Sentence Formation: 4

This response displays mature sentence structures, using expansion through coordination and embedding through subordination. Even though there is a sentence fragment ("Half of it at work, half on the baby.") and a sentence with an extra word ("Soon later my parents were so grateful"), there are complex and varied sentences throughout. This response demonstrates consistent control of the Sentence Formation domain.

## Usage: 4

Despite a few usage errors ("Hopefully now you see why B— would be great to have upon our painting"; "Whenever my mom was pregnant with me..."; "my parents were rushing to the hospital when they hear..."), the writer's consistent use of correct inflections, tenses, and agreement throughout the response demonstrates consistent control of the Usage domain.

## Mechanics: 4

Despite a few missing commas, this response demonstrates consistent control of the Mechanics domain.

At our schod were making a wall panting of people in our community The person I chose is fireman $B$. $B$ is a hero to all of us and here are three rearouse why I chose B the fireann as my pecan for the wall painting.

Have you ever seen a bouse on fire? $H_{\text {as }}$ it ever been gur house? If not then you have as due what type of bravery it taker to go inside a blazing fire. Just ask B how hoot it is. I pint ed B the fireman berceuse everyday he risks his life going into an in fere just to try to cave one more life. Hes one of the most courengouns people I know. Hopefully we can all honor hie an the wall Ho' my hero.

The only reason I know of $B$ is because he's my od father. Whenever My mom was pregnant with me, my parents were rushing to the heasital When they hear, GUGUNGGUGUNG, The car broke down! Thankfully $B$ ware driving behind us and gave ny parents a ride. Soon later my parents were so grateful they made him my god father See her's not only a hero when someone asks him, hes a astral here, and would be a great compliment to our $\underset{\text { panting. }}{\text { B }}$

B only does his work for ne person, his sike. year old dandier, F. E wascoborn on March 13世,2001.E jest entered kinder. garden and into any mom's dens. At the age of one and a half here mother $(B$ wife) died in a car cecodat. A drunk driver $t$-booed her into a tree aol she diln't have her seat belt on. Freon that dag forth B wankel 24 hock. day. Half of it at vorti, hafion the baby. My parents became E gadpacerts. See B ont just a kemenity here, he's also a hose at home toe taking core of his child E.

Hopefully now you see why $B$ wald be great to have noon our paoting. Hes courageous, really aisne, and a loving and adoring father. A is a true idol to people everywhere and when $E$ gets into our sch aol shell see that painting and Know that someone out there idolizes her dad as much as she dies.

## Writing Sample Response 2

## Content: 3

This response has a clear central idea (that a particular man, J—, should be chosen for the wall painting). Details support the central idea, but elaboration is not complete enough for a higher score. Ideas unfold logically, moving from discussion of ways the subject cares for people and animals, to discussion of his health problems, and finishing up with a closing discussion of the benefits of choosing this man for the painting. Overall, the response demonstrates reasonable control of the Content domain.

## Style: 3

This response has purposefully selected, precise vocabulary in places ("beautiful hutch"; "loves that little old man to death"; "puncturing"), but in other places, word choice is general ("things"). There is some variety in beginnings and lengths of sentences. The writer's tone of admiration is appropriate, and a voice is present that fades at times when the information becomes general. The response demonstrates reasonable control of the Style domain.

## Sentence Formation: 2

The majority of this response is composed of fused sentences ("J— is like my insperation he gives back... and tell the story of old man J-."). There are more sentences with errors than without, which demonstrates inconsistent control of the Sentence Formation domain.

## Usage: 4

In this response, the writer has competently handled all features of this domain, including standard inflections, agreement, and word meaning. The response demonstrates consistent control of the Usage domain.

## Mechanics: 3

Despite having misspelled a few more difficult or uncommon words ("widdles"; "insperation"; "comumunity"), this writer has demonstrated an overall competence in spelling. Although the response contains punctuation and capitalization errors at the beginnings and ends of sentences, the writer also demonstrates some knowledge of both punctuation and capitalization. The frequent comma splices present in much of the response are reflected in the Sentence Formation score, rather than in the Mechanics domain. The response demonstrates reasonable control of the Mechanics domain.

A man by the name of 1
lives on my street, hers a very hind do man who cares for all people and animals, he takes care of his wife, he often cooks but most of all he loves to wild things. The things he builds are so beautiful, he made a beautiful hutch for his wife $J$ with callings in it the woodwork was amazing, we also widdles small statues of things like horses and Lighthouses, birdhouses, and wall hangers for coats or to put pictures on.

1. is like my insperation he gives back to the community by picking up trash and planting trees and flowers, he's the suxelest little old man I know, if you put, on that wall you wont be sorry, everyone on our block loves that little old man to death but the thing is, ne onics has one more spar to live. ne nos a tumor next to his luna that is puncturing it, he could die any day now, and our community would cove it if you put that sweet old man)
and wows hies wife too on that wall, he will be remembered forever as many ahildrens insperation, we could show our children lice wall and sell the slery of old man J
But in tine end you would oC making an exceleit choice putting nim on the wall.

## Writing Sample Response 3

## Content: 2

This response has a central idea of a teacher the writer has chosen to be included in a community's wall painting. The minimal elaboration of details creates a list-like summary. Although the response is organized, the overall lack of elaboration and the simplistic closure demonstrate inconsistent control of the Content domain.

Style: 2
In this response, general information ("nease teacher"; "real bad") and a functional vocabulary lead to a flat tone. Many sentences have similar beginnings ("The reason"; "The second reason"; "That is the reason"), and the voice is dim. The response demonstrates inconsistent control of the Style domain.

## Sentence Formation: 2

This response has a fragment ("The reason that would like Ms. C-"), several missing words, and fused sentences ("The second reason I would like Her to be in paninteng she is the nease teacher she want even sed me to the elso do something real bad."). However, the student has formed several sentences correctly. This pattern of errors demonstrates inconsistent control of the Sentence Formation domain.

## Usage: 2

This response has tense errors and several wrong words ("want" in place of the words one, would, and won't; "allows" for always; "take" for talk; "ever" for every). These errors create a pattern and demonstrate an inconsistent control of the Usage domain.

## Mechanics: 2

Along with a few capitalization errors, this response misspells many basic words that come close to interfering with meaning ("teatcher"; "cept"; "nease"; "sed"; "elso"; "minuters"). There is inconsistent control of the Mechanics domain.

The peron that I would want to be included would be want of my itechers.. The teacher want have to be MS. 1 The re, a son that would like Ms. $L$ she allows help me sept a goad grade in her class.

The second reason I would like Her to bo in paninteng she is the nesse teacher she want even ged ne to the els do something real bod, she lower leates take for about Sminuters even day before closes. That is the reason that I would like for Ms. $C$ to be in my school painting.

## ACTAAP

Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Program

