

New Jersey Student Learning Assessments-ELA (NJSLA-ELA) Spring 2019 Companion Guide

The NJSLA-ELA measures student proficiency with grade level skills, knowledge and concepts that are critical to college and career readiness. On each assessment, students read and analyze passages from authentic fiction and nonfiction texts. The test can also include multimedia stimuli such as video or audio. The NJSLA-ELA assessments emphasize the importance of close reading, synthesizing ideas within and across texts, determining the meaning of words and phrases in context and writing at every grade.

NJSLA-ELA Spring 2019 Assessments

The NJSLA-ELA blueprints define the total number of tasks and/or items for any given grade or course assessment. To maintain the content coverage while shortening the assessment, it was necessary to create two blueprints for ELA. One test form was assembled according to each blueprint.

The first unit on the assessment is based on literary text(s) such as a Literary Analysis Task or a Narrative Writing Task. The second unit will include a Research Simulation Task. The ELA blueprints also contain short, long and paired passage sets.

The NJSLA-ELA Spring 2019 assessments:

- maintain a representative sampling of standards and evidence statements;
- reflect the balance between literary and informational texts;
- include a writing task in each unit;
- maintain all ELA scoring rubrics;
- continue the use of ELA Task Models;
- maintain all item types (Evidence-Based Selected Response; Technology-Enhanced Constructed Response; and Prose Constructed Response);
- include reporting of all five subclaims; and
- maintain five performance levels (i.e., Approaching Expectations, Meeting Expectations, etc.).

NJSLA-ELA Grade 3 Blueprints

Blueprint 1 for grade three will consist of a Literary Analysis Task and Research Simulation Task. Blueprint 2 will include a Narrative Writing Task, Short Passage Set and Research Simulation Task. The two grade three blueprints for the NJSLA-ELA are outlined in Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1. Grade 3 ELA Blueprint 1

Unit	Task	Time
Unit 1	Literary Analysis Task	75 minutes
Unit 2	Research Simulation Task	75 minutes
Total	All Tasks	150 minutes

Table 2. Grade 3 ELA Blueprint 2

Unit	Task	Time
Unit 1	Narrative Writing Task Short Passage Set	75 minutes
Unit 2	Research Simulation Task	75 minutes
Total	All Tasks	150 minutes



NJSLA-ELA Grades 4 through High School Blueprints

Blueprint 1 for grades four through high school include a Literary Analysis Task, Short Passage Set and Research Simulation Task. Blueprint 2 will consist of a Narrative Writing Task, Long or Paired Passage Set and Research Simulation Task. The two NJSLA-ELA blueprints for grades four through high school are outlined in Tables 3 and 4.

Table 3. Grades 4 through High School ELA Blueprint 1

Unit	Task	Time
Unit 1	Literary Analysis Task Short Passage Set	90 minutes
Unit 2	Research Simulation Task	90 minutes
Total	All Tasks	180 minutes

Table 4. Grades 4 through High School ELA Blueprint 2

Unit	Task	Time
Unit 1	Narrative Writing Task Long or Paired Passage Set	90 minutes
Unit 2	Research Simulation Task	90 minutes
Total	All Tasks	180 minutes

Comparability of Forms

Two NJSLA-ELA forms adhere to stringent content specifications and statistical requirements to ensure that the forms are comparable and fair for all students.

Total points vary between the two forms due to the nature of the design of the Literary Analysis Task and Narrative Writing Tasks. However, they both ask students to read and respond to literary texts. Both tasks report and align to the Literary Text subclaim, standards and evidence statements. The forms are designed so students, regardless of which form they are assigned, will need to demonstrate the same level of knowledge to meet a specific performance level.

Expert analysis was conducted to ensure that scores are comparable across forms. First, the two forms were built to be similar in content and difficulty. Then, experts equated the two forms, which is a statistical process conducted to establish comparable scores on different forms of an assessment.

The two forms will be randomly assigned to students. Therefore, all students need to be prepared to respond to all three task types.

For More Information

See the [2019 NJSLA-ELA Blueprints](#) and [support documents for the NJSLA-ELA](#).

