

**Teacher
Performance
Assessment
Consortium (TPAC)**

**Elementary
Literacy**

**Assessment
Handbook**

Field Test Pre-Release Handbook
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Overview of the Teaching Performance Assessment in Elementary Literacy

Purpose

The Teaching Performance Assessment (TPA) is being developed as a nationally available assessment of readiness to teach for novices. The assessment is focused on student learning and is designed around the principles that successful teachers apply knowledge of [subject matter and subject-specific pedagogy](#), develop and apply knowledge of their students' varied needs, consider research/theory about how students learn, and reflect and act on evidence of the effects of their instruction on student learning.

As a performance-based assessment, the TPA is designed to engage candidates in demonstrating their understanding of teaching and student learning in authentic, experiential ways. As a participant in this assessment, you will have an opportunity to develop a collection of materials that represents the ways in which you teach students in your “student teaching” classroom or other instructional settings. When developing your materials, you will be prompted to synthesize what you have learned throughout your preparation program and apply it with the students you currently teach. Your TPA evidence will demonstrate your current abilities, knowledge and skills as a beginning teacher on your way to becoming a highly accomplished teacher.

Summary of Tasks

In this assessment, you will describe, analyze, and evaluate the teaching of a series of 3–5 literacy lessons referred to as a [learning segment](#). Consistent with the [Common Core Standards](#) and recommendations provided by the International Reading Association (2010) for literacy professionals, a learning segment prepared for this assessment should reflect a balanced literacy curriculum that attends to foundational skills and strategies, word knowledge, conventions, language development, and positive literate environments. While the full scope of a balanced curriculum may not be feasible in a short learning segment, you should plan, teach, and assess skills and strategies in a balanced, integrated way so that your students develop their abilities to meaningfully comprehend and/or compose text. You will complete four tasks for the TPAC assessment:

1. Planning, Instruction and Assessment
2. Instructing and Engaging Students in Learning
3. Assessing Student Learning
4. Analyzing Teaching

Evidence of Teaching Practice: Artifacts and Commentaries

To complete the assessment, you will submit artifacts and commentaries as evidence of how you planned and implemented instruction to develop student learning in literacy. Artifacts represent the authentic work of you and your students. These include lesson plans, copies of instructional and assessment materials, one or two video clips of your teaching, and student work samples.

The commentaries are your opportunity to describe your artifacts, explain the rationale behind their use, and analyze and reflect on what you learned about your teaching practice and your students' learning. In each commentary, you will respond to prompts to provide evidence of what you know and

understand about your students and their learning. Note that although your writing ability will not be scored directly, commentaries must be clearly written and well focused.

Evaluation and Scoring Criteria

The evidence you submit will be judged on five dimensions of teaching: Planning, Instruction, Assessment, Analyzing Teaching and Academic Language. Evidence for the planning, instruction, assessment, and analyzing teaching dimensions will come from the corresponding tasks. Evidence for the academic language dimension will come from the planning and either the instruction or assessment tasks.

The rubrics used to score your performance on the TPA are included in the handbook and are linked electronically to each task and prompt. The descriptors in the five level rubrics address a wide range of performance representing the knowledge and skills of a novice not ready to teach (Level 1) to advanced practices of a highly accomplished beginner (Level 5). When preparing your artifacts and commentaries, refer to the rubrics frequently to guide your thinking, planning and writing.

Structure of the Handbook

The instructions in the following pages will guide you in putting together the artifacts and commentaries required within the four tasks of the TPA. Instructions for each task are organized in three sections: 1) What to Think About, 2) What Do I Need to Do? and 3) What Do I Need to Write? Review all instructions carefully before beginning to teach the learning segment to ensure that you are well prepared for all tasks.

For this Field Test Pre-Release Handbook sample guidelines for document formatting and submission are found in the 'Sample Evidence Chart'.

The remainder of this introduction provides an overview of the assessment components and your professional responsibilities in preparing your materials.

Assessment Components at a Glance

What to Do	What to Submit	Scoring Rubrics
TPAC Task 1: Planning Instruction and Assessment		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Provide relevant information about your instructional context. ▶ Select a learning segment of 3–5 sequential lessons that balance the teaching of literacy skills and strategies and support students to comprehend and/or compose text ▶ Consider your students’ strengths and needs and select a central literacy focus and a key language demand for the learning segment. Create an instruction and assessment plan for the learning segment, and write lesson plans. ▶ Respond to commentary prompts to explain what you know about your students and the thinking behind your plans. ▶ Make daily notes about the effectiveness of your teaching for your students’ learning (will be used in writing the Analyzing Teaching commentary in Task 4). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Part A: Context for Learning Information □ Part B: Lesson Plans for Learning Segment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Lesson plans ■ Instructional Materials ■ Assessment Tools/ Procedures and Criteria □ Part C: Planning Commentary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Planning Rubrics (EM 1, 2, and 3)
TPAC Task 2: Instructing and Engaging Students in Learning		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Collect permission forms from parents/guardians and prepare for video-recording. ▶ Review and identify lessons where you are engaging your students to develop literacy skills and strategies to comprehend and/or compose text. ▶ Submit one or two clips from one lesson that do not exceed 15 minutes in total. ▶ Respond to commentary prompts to analyze your teaching and your students’ learning in the video clip(s). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Part A: Video Clip(s) □ Part B: Instruction Commentary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Instruction Rubrics (EM 4 and 5)

What to Do	What to Submit	Scoring Rubrics
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TPAC Task 3: Assessing Student Learning

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Analyze class performance from one assessment completed during the learning segment. ▶ Identify three student work samples that illustrate trends in student understanding within the class. ▶ Select and analyze the learning of two focus students in more depth, and document your feedback on their work. ▶ Respond to commentary prompts to report conclusions from your analysis and describe feedback given to the two focus students. ▶ Identify next steps in instruction based on your analysis. ▶ Provide the assessment task and evaluation criteria. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Part A: Student Work Samples <input type="checkbox"/> Part B: Evidence of Feedback <input type="checkbox"/> Part C: Assessment Commentary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Assessment Rubrics (EM 6, 7, and 8)
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TPAC Task 4: Analyzing Teaching

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Using notes you have recorded throughout the learning segment, respond to commentary prompts to explain what you have learned about your teaching practice and two or three things you would do differently if you could teach the learning segment over. Explain why the changes would improve your students' learning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Analyzing Teaching Commentary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Analyzing Teaching Rubric (EM 9)
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TPAC Academic Language in Literacy (evidence is gathered across tasks as noted)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Select one key language demand related to the literacy central focus. Explain how you will support students with varied language needs. ▶ Cite evidence of opportunities for students to understand and use the targeted academic language in: 1) the video clips from the Instruction task; OR 2) the student work samples from the Assessment task. Analyze the effectiveness of your language supports. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Planning Commentary <input type="checkbox"/> Instruction Commentary (Prompt 4) OR <input type="checkbox"/> Assessment Commentary (Prompt 4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Academic Language Rubrics (EM 10, 11, 12)
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Professional Responsibilities

Refer to the following table for an overview of professional responsibilities inherent in the development of your TPA evidence.

Responsibility	Description
Protect confidentiality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To protect confidentiality, please remove your name and use pseudonyms or general references (e.g., “the district”) for your school, district, or cooperating teacher. You may use either pseudonyms or first names only for students. Do this in all commentaries, and mask or remove names that could identify people or institutions from all materials submitted, including lesson plans.
Acquiring Permissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Before you record your classroom instruction, ensure that you have the appropriate permission from the parents/guardians of your students and from adults who appear in the video-recording. Your program will provide you with procedures and necessary forms to obtain these permissions, according to agreements with the school or district in which you are student teaching or completing your internship. The release forms are not to be submitted with your materials, but you should follow your campus policy for retaining them,
Citing Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide source citations for all materials that you did not create (e.g., published texts, websites, material from other educators). List all citations by lesson number at the end of the planning commentary.
Aligning Instruction with State Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of the assessment, you will document the alignment of your lesson plans with state-adopted academic content standards that are the target of student learning. Refer to the Department of Education Web site for your state to obtain copies of relevant standards for this assessment. See also the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy.
Collaborate with others while developing your own teaching practice	<p>As a credential candidate, you are encouraged to seek assistance, input and feedback from your university supervisors, cooperating/master teachers, university instructors, or peers during the completion of this assessment. However, the ultimate responsibility for compiling the documentation lies with you. Therefore, when you submit your completed assessment for scoring, you will be asked to attest to the following statements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I have primary responsibility for teaching the students/class during the learning segment profiled in this assessment; The video clip(s) submitted show me teaching the students/class profiled in the evidence submitted; The student work included in the documentation is that of my students, completed during the learning segment documented in this assessment; I am sole author of the commentaries and other written responses to prompts and other requests for information in this assessment; Appropriate citations have been made for all materials in the assessment whose sources are from published text, the Internet, or other educators.

Task 1: Planning Instruction and Assessment

What to Think About

In Task 1: Planning Instruction and Assessment, you will describe your plans for the learning segment and explain how they are appropriate for the students and the content you are teaching. Think about what you know about your students as learners and provide information about what they know and can do related to the content you will teach. Consider your students' [prior learning and experiences](#) including their **academic content knowledge, language development, social/emotional development, family/cultural assets, interests and lived experiences**; as well as any identified learning needs.

In this task, you will demonstrate your ability to organize curriculum, instruction, and assessment to help diverse students meet content standards and develop related academic language. You will provide evidence of your ability to select, adapt, or design learning tasks and materials that offer your students equitable access to literacy curriculum content and associated academic language.

Task 1 sets the stage for you to demonstrate and analyze the effectiveness of your teaching of the planned learning segment. Be explicit about how what you know about your students informs the teaching you propose.

What Do I Need to Do?

- If you teach more than one class, select one focus class for this assessment.
- Provide information about your teaching context by downloading and completing the [Context for Learning Information template](#).
- Review the curriculum with your cooperating teacher and select a [learning segment](#) of 3 to 5 lessons (or, if teaching literacy within a large time block, about 3 to 5 hours of connected instruction) to describe, analyze, and reflect upon. The learning segment should provide opportunities for students develop the skills and strategies needed to comprehend and/or compose text.
- Identify the [central focus](#) along with the content standards and objectives you will address in the learning segment.
- Consider [language demands](#) associated with content understandings in the learning segment. These include the oral and written [academic language](#) that students will need to understand or produce in your learning segment. Select a language demand in the learning segment that is critical to understanding instruction or materials and/or demonstrating learning, and in which your students would benefit from more instruction and/or practice.

(In Tasks 2 and 3, you will have opportunities to provide evidence of students' understanding and use of the targeted academic language. You may choose to cite this evidence in: 1) the Instruction task (video clips) OR 2) the Assessment task (student work samples).

- Write a lesson plan for each lesson in the learning segment. Your credential program may require you to use a specific lesson plan format for this assessment. Regardless, lesson plans should minimally include the following information:

- State-adopted student academic content standards that are the target of student learning. Please list the number and text of the standard. If only a portion of a standard is being addressed, then only list the relevant part(s).
- Learning objectives associated with the content standards
- Informal and formal assessment tools and/or procedures used to monitor student learning, including type(s) of assessment and what is assessed
- Instructional strategies and learning tasks used to support student learning, including what you and the students will be doing
- Resources and materials

If you make significant changes to your lesson plans when teaching the learning segment, only submit the revised lesson plans instead of the original to reflect the adaptations that guided your teaching.

- Submit selected instructional materials and **all** assessment tools and/or procedures used during the learning segment (up to 5 artifact pages per lesson). The instructional materials might include class handouts, overhead transparencies, PowerPoint or SmartBoard slides. To remain within the page limit, you may provide a summary of texts used if they exceed the required page limits in lieu of a copy. See the [Lesson Plan template](#) for directions for how to submit the instructional materials and assessments.
- In preparation for writing the [Analyzing Teaching commentary \(Task 4\)](#), record notes on the effectiveness of your instruction for various students after teaching each lesson. You will NOT submit these, so they can be in any form that is useful to you, e.g., annotated lesson plans, bulleted notes, etc. Your notes should address your reflections on the following: What's working? What's not? For whom? And why? (as well as citing events and other evidence that led to these conclusions).

What Do I Need to Write?

In Task 1: Planning, you will write lesson plans, a description of your Context for Learning, and a Planning Commentary explaining your plans.

The Context for Learning Information and Lesson Plan templates is provided at the end of this Pre-Release Handbook and the prompts for the Planning commentary and template link are below.

Planning Commentary

Complete the Planning Commentary template and provide your responses to each of the prompts below in no more than 9 total single spaced pages (including prompts). If you are prompted to provide any explanations that can be found in your lesson plans, refer to the appropriate page(s) of those plans.

1. Content Focus

- Summarize the [central focus](#) for the content you will teach in this learning segment.

2. Knowledge of Students to Inform Teaching

For each of the categories listed below (a-d), describe what you know about your students' [prior learning and experiences](#) with respect to the central focus of the learning segment.

What do they know, what can they do and what are they are learning to do?

Consider the variety of learners in your class who may require different strategies/support:

- a) Academic development (e.g., prior knowledge, prerequisite skills, ways of thinking in the subject areas, developmental levels, special educational needs)
- b) [Academic Language](#) development (e.g., students' abilities to understand and produce the oral or written language associated with the central focus and standards/objectives within the learning segment)
- c) Family/community/cultural assets (e.g., relevant lived experiences, cultural expectations, and student interests)
- d) [Social and emotional development](#) (e.g., ability to interact and express themselves in constructive ways, ability to engage in collaborative learning, nature of contributions to a positive literacy learning environment).

3. Supporting Student Literacy Learning

Respond to prompts a-e below to explain how your plans support your students' literacy learning related to the central focus of the learning segment. As needed, refer to the instructional materials you have included to support your explanations. Cite research and theory to support your explanations.

- a) Explain how your understanding of your students' prior learning, experiences and development guided your choice or adaptation of learning tasks and materials, to develop students' abilities to comprehend and/or compose text.
- b) How are the plans for instruction sequenced in the learning segment to build connections between students' prior learning and experiences and new literacy skills and strategies?
- c) Explain how, throughout the learning segment, you will help students make connections between skills and strategies in ways that support their abilities to comprehend and/or compose text.
- d) Describe common developmental approximations¹ and misunderstandings within your literacy content focus and how you will address them.
- e) Describe any instructional strategies planned to support students with specific learning needs. This will vary based on what you know about your students, but may include

¹E.g., transitional spelling or other attempts to use skills or strategies just beyond a student's current level/capability.

students with IEPs, English learners, or gifted students needing greater support or challenge.

4. Supporting Student Understanding and Use of [Academic Language](#)

Respond to the prompts below to explain how your plans support your students' academic language development.

- a) Identify the key academic [language demand](#) and explain why it is integral to the central focus for the segment and appropriate to students' academic language development. Consider [language functions](#) and [language forms](#), essential vocabulary, and/or phrases for the concepts and skills being taught, and instructional language necessary for students to understand or produce oral and/or written language within learning tasks and activities.
- b) Explain how planned instructional supports will assist students to understand [academic language](#) related to the key language demand to express and develop their content learning. Describe how planned supports vary for students at different levels of academic language development.

4. Monitoring Student Learning

- a) Explain how the informal and formal assessments were selected and/or designed to provide evidence you will use to monitor student progress toward the standards/objectives. Consider how the assessments will provide evidence of students' use of literacy skills and strategies to comprehend and/or compose text.
- b) Describe any modifications or accommodations to the planned assessment tools or procedures that allow students with specific needs to demonstrate their learning.

The Planning Rubrics (EL1) are at the end of this Pre-Release Handbook.

The Academic Language rubrics (EL10 and 11) are at the end of this Pre-Release Handbook.

Task 2: Instructing and Engaging Students in Learning

What to Think About

The Instructing and Engaging Students in Learning task asks you to demonstrate how you balance the teaching of skills and strategies so students develop their abilities to comprehend and/or compose text. You will provide evidence of your ability to intellectually engage students in meaningful literacy tasks, monitor their understanding, and use your responses to students to guide their learning.

Think about how your choices of instructional strategies engage students in learning skills and strategies to comprehend and/or compose text. While teaching, how do you prompt students to make connections between their prior learning and experiences and the literacy skills and strategies to be learned? Consider which lessons in the learning segment require meaningful student engagement in literacy skills and strategies and plan to video record on those days in particular. Be strategic in selecting video clip(s) that reveal the ways in which students are engaged and you are eliciting and monitoring their literacy development and academic language use. Consider how you will support students to apply conventions/skills in meaningful reading and/or writing contexts.

What Do I Need to Do?

- I. Examine your plans for the learning segment and identify learning tasks in which students are actively engaged in developing strategies and skills to comprehend and/or compose text. . The clip(s) may or may not include the beginning and end of the learning task from which they come, but should provide a sample of how you interact with students to support their abilities to comprehend and/or compose text by integrating skills and strategies.
- Video-record your classroom teaching. View the video(s) to check the video and sound quality, analyze your teaching, and select the most appropriate video clip(s) to submit.
- Provide **one or two video clips of no more than fifteen minutes total** in length. The interactions in the clip(s) should demonstrate how you engage students in developing literacy skills and strategies. (The clip(s) you select may feature strategy development as the primary focus for student engagement or may integrate strategy use with the development of students' understanding of skills and conventions.)
- See [Video Guidelines](#)
- Provide a copy of any relevant writing on the board, overhead, or walls if it is not clearly visible on the video. Insert this document at the end of the [Instruction Commentary](#).

What Do I Need to Write?

Instruction Commentary

Use the [Instruction Commentary template](#) to write a commentary of **2–4 single-spaced pages** (including prompts) that addresses the following prompts.

1. Identify the number of the lesson or lessons from which the clip(s) were recorded.
2. [Engaging Students in Learning](#)
 - a) Explain how the instruction (tasks, activities, discussions, and/or teaching strategies) depicted in the clip(s) motivated and intellectually engaged students in developing skills and strategies for comprehending and/or composing text. Cite specific examples from the clip(s) of what students said/did to support your explanation.
 - b) Using examples from the clip(s), describe how your instruction (tasks, activities, discussions, and/or teaching strategies) linked students' prior learning and experiences with new learning. Prior learning and experience includes **students' academic content knowledge, language development, social/emotional development, family/cultural assets, interests and lived experiences**.
3. **Deepening Student Learning During Instruction**
 - a) Explain how you elicited student thinking through questions or materials and facilitated responses that supported students' understanding and use of literacy skills and strategies to comprehend and/or compose text.
 - b) Explain how you supported students to develop literacy skills in a meaning-based context.
 - c) Cite evidence from the clip(s) of what you and your students said/did to support your explanations.
4. **Evidence of Academic Language** (NOTE: You may provide evidence for academic language with your video clip(s) OR through student work samples in Task 3. If evidence of student understanding and/or use of the key language demand is well represented in the clips, then respond to the prompts below. Otherwise, omit this prompt and respond to [prompt 4 in the Assessment task](#). You must provide this evidence in at least one of the two available tasks).
 - a) Describe evidence in the clip that demonstrate the extent to which students are able to understand and/or use the language associated with the identified language demand (vocabulary, function/form and/or instructional language) in ways that develop their abilities to comprehend and/or compose text.
 - b) Using this evidence, how well did your language supports or instruction promote academic language development for students with varied language levels?

The Instruction Rubrics (EL4) are at the end of this Pre-Release handbook.

The Academic Language Rubrics (EL11 and EL12) are at the end of this Pre-Release handbook.

Task 3: Assessing Student Learning

What to Think About

The Assessing Student Learning task asks you to assess student learning, analyze student strengths and needs, and use your analysis of student performance to inform instruction. You will provide evidence of your ability to 1) develop [evaluation criteria](#) that are aligned with your central focus, standards, and learning objectives; 2) analyze student performance on an assessment in relation to the identified learning objectives; 3) provide feedback to students; and 4) use the analysis of student performance to identify next steps in instruction.

Think about the ways in which you are monitoring, examining, and evaluating evidence of student learning throughout the learning segment. How do you document and make sense of what students have learned? How do you provide feedback? In using assessment evidence to plan next steps for your teaching, consider common learning across most of the class as well as common strengths or needs among several students. Consider both the successes and struggles of your students.

What Do I Need to Do?

- Select an assessment **from the learning segment** that you will use to evaluate your students' developing knowledge and skills. The assessment should reflect the work of individuals, not groups. The assessment should give both you and the students a sense of how well they are progressing toward learning the literacy knowledge, skills, and abilities targeted in the learning segment:
 - language and literacy conventions
 - skills
 - strategies
- Provide a copy of the evaluation criteria (e.g., rubric) and, if these are not obvious from the student work samples, the assessment task/directions/prompt [in the Assessment Commentary template](#).
- Collect student work from your entire class and analyze student performance to identify **patterns in understanding** within the class.
- Illustrate the results of your analysis with student work samples.
 - a. Select **three student work samples**. Your choices should represent what students in the class generally understood and what a number of students were still struggling to understand. At least one of the students must have identified learning needs, such as an English language learner or a student with an IEP.
 - b. Identify two focus students from the three previously selected student work samples: one student with identified learning needs and one other focus student.
- Document and submit evidence of the feedback you provided to the two focus students, either as individuals or as part of a larger group. You may provide a copy of written feedback or video/audio evidence of oral feedback.
 - a. If the feedback is written directly on the work sample, be sure that reviewers can distinguish the feedback from the students' own work. [\[Link to work sample evidence\]](#)
 - b. If the feedback occurred in a video clip submitted as part of the Instruction task, identify the timestamp range on the video where the feedback can be found (e.g.,

Clip 1, 01:35 – 3:05). You may also submit an additional video clip showing oral feedback; label this video “Feedback clip.” [{Link to video feedback evidence}](#)

What Do I Need to Write?

Assessment Commentary

Use the [Assessment Commentary template](#) to write a commentary no more than **8 single-spaced pages** (including attachments) that addresses the following prompts.

1. Analyzing Student Learning

- a) Identify the specific standards/objectives and central focus from the learning segment measured by the assessment chosen for analysis. Describe any changes from what was planned for this assessment as described in the lesson plans or in the [Planning commentary, prompt 4](#).
- b) Respond to prompts below to create a summary of student learning relative to your evaluation criteria.
 1. Summarize student performance in narrative and/or graphic form (e.g., table or chart).
 2. Discuss what students appear to understand well where they continue to struggle, including any misunderstandings, developmental approximations², confusions, or needs (including a need for greater challenge).
 3. Consider common patterns across the class as well as groups of students with similar strengths or needs. Cite evidence to support your analysis from the three student work samples you selected.
- c) Respond to prompts below by referencing your understanding of the **two focus students**:
 1. Describe each student’s individual learning strengths and challenges relative to the standards/objectives measured by the chosen assessment. Consider your knowledge of each student (e.g., prior knowledge of the content, language development, academic development, and/or special needs).
 2. After analyzing each student’s work sample, what conclusions did you make regarding their individual learning? Cite specific evidence to support your conclusions.

2. Feedback to Guide Further Learning

- a) In what form did you submit your evidence of feedback (e.g., written directly on work samples, audio files, a time stamp reference for videorecording(s) in the Instruction task)? If submitted via video for Task 2, provide time stamp here.
- b) How did feedback provided to each focus student address individual student needs and learning objectives? Reference specific evidence of submitted feedback to support your explanation.
- c) What opportunities were/will be provided for students to apply the feedback to improve their work, either within the learning segment or at a later time?

²E.g., transitional spelling or other attempts to use strategies just beyond a student’s current level/capability.

3. Using Assessment to Inform Instruction

For prompts below, consider what you know about your students and the effectiveness of your instruction when designing next steps. Be sure to connect your next steps to your analysis of the student performances.

- a) Based on your analysis of student performance on this assessment, describe next steps for instruction for the whole class.
- b) Describe any individualized next steps for the two focus students.
- c) Explain how these next steps follow from your analysis of the student performances.

4. Evidence of Academic Language- (NOTE: You may provide evidence for academic language with your video clip(s) in Task 2 OR through the student work samples analyzed in this task.. If your evidence of the key language demand is well represented in the student work samples, then respond to the prompts below. Otherwise, omit this prompt and respond to [prompt 4 in the Instruction task](#). You must provide this evidence in at least one of the two available tasks).

- a) Describe evidence from the student work samples that demonstrate the extent to which students are able to understand and/or use the language associated with the identified language demand (vocabulary, function/form and instructional language) in ways that develop literacy skills and strategies.
- b) Using this evidence, how well did your language supports or scaffolding promote academic language development for students with varied language levels?

The Assessment Rubrics (EL 6, EL 7, and EL 8) are at the end of this Pre-Release handbook.

The Academic Language Rubrics (EL11 and EL12) are at the end of this Pre-Release handbook.

Task 4: Analyzing Teaching

What to Think About

The Analyzing Teaching task asks you to reflect on your experiences teaching the learning segment and to consider what you have learned about your teaching and the learning of your students. You will provide evidence of your ability to analyze the effectiveness of your teaching and propose changes that would have better supported the learning of your diverse students. Think about what you learned from your experiences teaching each day of the learning segment and the analyses and commentaries you have provided throughout this assessment. What worked? What didn't? For whom? And why? What is your evidence?

What Do I Need to Do?

- Review your notes and reflections recorded throughout the learning segment and analyze what you have learned about your teaching, your students and their learning.
- Respond to the Analyzing Teaching commentary prompt by explaining what you would do differently, given the opportunity to teach these lessons again to the **same group of students**.

What Do I Need to Write?

Analyzing Teaching Commentary

Use the [Analyzing Teaching Commentary template](#) to write a commentary of **no more than two single spaced pages (including prompts)** in response to the following prompts.

1. If you could teach these lessons to the same group of students again, what are two or three things you would do differently to improve the learning of these students based on their varied needs and characteristics? Consider missed opportunities and other aspects of planning, instruction and/or assessment.
2. Citing evidence from your experience teaching this learning segment, explain why you would expect these changes to make a difference in student learning.

The Analyzing Teaching Rubric (EM9) is at the end of this Pre-Release handbook.

Rubrics

Planning Rubrics

PLANNING: PLANNING BALANCED LITERACY INSTRUCTION				
EL1: How do the candidate's plans develop students' abilities to comprehend and/or compose text through literacy skills and strategies?				
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Standards, objectives learning tasks and materials are not aligned with each other .	Standards, objectives, learning tasks and materials are loosely or inconsistently aligned with each other .	Standards, objectives, learning tasks and materials are consistently aligned with each other and with the central focus for the learning segment.	Standards, objectives, learning tasks and materials are consistently aligned with the central focus. Learning objectives clearly define measurable outcomes for student learning.	Standards, objectives, learning tasks and materials are consistently aligned with the central focus. Learning objectives clearly define measurable outcomes for student learning.
Plans focus solely on literacy facts/conventions/skills with no connections to strategies for comprehending or composing text . OR There are significant content inaccuracies that will lead to student misunderstandings.	Plans for instruction support student learning of conventions and skills with vague connections to strategies for comprehending or composing text	Plans for instruction build on each other to support learning of conventions/skills with connections to strategies for comprehending or composing text	Plans for instruction build on each other to support learning of conventions/skills with clear and meaningful connections to strategies for comprehending or composing text.	Plans for instruction build on each other to lead students to make clear and meaningful connections among identified conventions/skills and strategies for comprehending or composing text.

NOTE: Text representing differences between adjacent score levels is bolded. Evidence that does not meet Level 1 criteria is scored at Level 1.

PLANNING: USING KNOWLEDGE OF STUDENTS TO INFORM TEACHING AND LEARNING				
EL2: How does the candidate use knowledge of his/her students to target support for students' literacy development?				
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Learning tasks do not reflect characteristics of students' prior learning and experience ³ .	Learning tasks reflect general characteristics of students' prior learning and experience.	Learning tasks draw on students' prior learning and experience AND social/emotional development or interests.	Learning tasks are designed to support a positive literacy environment and draw upon students' prior learning and experience, social/emotional development, and interests.	Learning tasks are designed to support a positive literacy environment and draw upon and engage students in examining their own strengths from prior learning and experience, social/emotional development, and interests.
There are no planned supports for students with varied needs.	Planned support consists of general strategies loosely tied to learning objectives or the central focus of the learning segment.	Planned support includes tasks/materials and/or scaffolding tied to learning objectives and the central focus with attention to the characteristics of the class as a whole and to requirements in IEPs and 504 plans.	Planned support includes a variety of tasks/materials and scaffolding tied to specific learning objectives and the central focus. Supports address the needs of specific individuals or groups with similar needs and include strategies to surface and respond to common developmental approximations⁴ and misunderstandings.	Planned support includes multiple ways of engaging with content that support students to meet specific standards/objectives within the central focus. Support is specifically designed to address a variety of student learning strengths and needs , and include specific strategies to surface and respond to both common developmental approximations and misunderstandings
Candidate's justification of learning tasks is either missing OR represents a deficit view of students and their backgrounds.	Candidate justifies learning tasks with limited attention to students' prior learning and experience.	Candidate uses examples of students' prior learning and experience to justify why learning tasks (or their adaptations) are appropriate.	Candidate uses examples from their students' prior learning and experience AND relevant research/theory to justify why learning tasks (or their adaptation) are appropriate.	Candidate justifies learning tasks by explaining their appropriateness for students' prior learning and experience and anticipated effects on new learning with support from relevant research and/or theory.

³ "Prior learning and experience" includes students' academic content knowledge, language development, family/cultural assets, and lived experiences.

⁴E.g., transitional spelling or other attempts to use skills or strategies just beyond a student's current level/capability.

PLANNING: PLANNING ASSESSMENTS TO MONITOR AND SUPPORT STUDENT LEARNING				
EL3: How are the informal and formal assessments selected or designed to provide evidence of student progress toward the standards/objectives?				
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
The set of assessments are not aligned to the standards and learning objectives and will provide little or no evidence of students' literacy skills and strategies.	The set of assessments are loosely aligned to the standards and objectives, and provide limited evidence to monitor students' literacy skills and strategies during the learning segment.	The set of assessments are aligned to the standards and objectives, and provide evidence for monitoring students' literacy skills and strategies at different points in the learning segment.	The set of assessments are aligned to the standards and objectives and provide multiple forms of evidence for monitoring progress toward developing literacy skills and strategies throughout the learning segment.	The set of assessments are strategically designed to provide multiple forms of evidence for monitoring student progress toward developing literacy skills and strategies relative to the standards and objectives throughout the learning segment.
OR Assessment accommodations or modifications required by IEP or 504 plans are NOT made.				

Instruction Rubrics

INSTRUCTION		ENGAGING STUDENTS IN LEARNING				
EM4: How does the candidate actively engage students in integrating skills and strategies to comprehend and/or compose text?		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
<p>In the clip(s), students are passive or inattentive while candidate directs discussions, tasks or activities.</p>	<p>In the clips, students are participating in discussions, tasks, or activities solely on conventions and skills without developing strategies for comprehending and/or composing text.</p>	<p>In the clip(s), students are intellectually engaged in discussions, tasks, or activities that develop their understandings of skills and strategies for comprehending and/or composing text.</p>	<p>In the clip(s), students are intellectually engaged in discussions, tasks or activities integrate skills and strategies for comprehending and/or composing text through teacher-student and student-student interaction.</p>	<p>In the clip(s), students are intellectually engaged in discussions, tasks, or activities tailored to specific student needs that that integrate skills and strategies for comprehending and/or composing text through teacher-student and student-student interaction.</p>	<p>Candidate prompts students to make links between new content and their prior learning and experience in ways that integrate skills and strategies for comprehending and/or composing text.</p>	
<p>There is little to no evidence that candidate attends to students' prior learning and experience.</p>	<p>Candidate attempts to link new content to students' prior learning and experience, but the links are unrelated to the literacy skills or strategies or cause student confusion.</p>	<p>Candidate links new content to students' prior learning and experience as well as to skills or strategies for comprehending and/or composing text.</p>	<p>Candidate makes links between new content and students' prior learning and experience in ways that integrate skills and strategies for comprehending and/or composing text.</p>			
<p>OR</p> <p>Student misbehavior or candidate's disrespect for one or more students severely limits students' engagement in learning.</p>						

INSTRUCTION: DEEPENING STUDENT LEARNING				
EL5: How does the candidate elicit and monitor students' responses to develop literacy skills and strategies to comprehend and/or compose text?				
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
<p>Candidate talks throughout the clip(s) and students provide few responses.</p> <p>The candidate teaches conventions/skills without providing meaningful context.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Materials or candidate responses include significant literacy content inaccuracies that will lead to student misunderstandings.</p>	<p>Candidate primarily asks surface-level questions and evaluates student responses as correct or incorrect.</p> <p>Candidate makes vague or superficial connections between conventions/skills and their use in reading or writing contexts</p>	<p>The candidate elicits student responses related to use of literacy skills or strategies.</p> <p>Candidate makes clear connections between conventions/skills and their use in reading or writing contexts.</p>	<p>Candidate elicits and builds on students' skills to explicitly portray, extend, or clarify a literacy strategy.</p> <p>Candidate prompts students to apply conventions/skills in meaningful reading and/or writing contexts</p>	<p>All components of Level 4 plus,</p> <p>Candidate facilitates interactions among students to evaluate their own abilities to apply conventions/skills in meaningful reading and/or writing contexts.</p>

Assessment Rubrics

ASSESSMENT: ANALYZING STUDENT WORK				
EL6: How does the candidate demonstrate an understanding of student performance with respect to standards/objectives?				
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Criteria are not aligned with the identified standards/objectives .	Criteria are generally aligned with the standards/objectives from the learning segment.	Criteria are clearly aligned with standards/objectives from the learning segment.	Criteria are clearly aligned with standards/objectives from the learning segment. Criteria indicate qualitative differences in student performance .	All components of Level 4 plus: The candidate is able to identify areas of strength in a predominantly weak performance and/or areas for improvement in a predominantly strong one.
The analysis is superficial and/or vaguely connected to identified standards and objectives .	The analysis focuses only on student errors in relation to identified standards/objectives.	The analysis focuses on listing what students did right and wrong in relation to the use of skills and strategies for identified standards/objectives.	The analysis focuses on patterns of student understandings, skills, and misunderstandings (or developmental approximations) in relation to identified standards and learning objectives. The analysis uses these patterns to understand student thinking .	
OR The conclusions in the analysis are not supported by either student work samples or the summary of performance .	The analysis is supported by work samples and the summary of performance in a general way .	The analysis is supported by work samples and the summary of performance, with attention to some differences in whole class learning of different aspects of the content assessed.	The analysis is supported by work samples and the summary of performance, as well as references to evidence in work samples to identify specific patterns of learning for individuals or groups .	

ASSESSMENT: USING FEEDBACK TO GUIDE FURTHER LEARNING				
EL7: How does the candidate provide students feedback to guide their further learning?				
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Feedback is unrelated to the learning objectives.	Feedback focuses solely on identifying errors aligned with the learning objectives.	Feedback accurately identifies general areas for what students did well and what they need to improve related to specific learning objectives.	Feedback is clear, specific and accurate, helps the student understand what s/he did well, and provides guidance for improvement.	All components of level 4 plus: Candidate describes how students will use feedback to evaluate their own abilities to comprehend and/or compose text.
Opportunities for applying feedback are not described.	Candidate describes how students will correct their errors .	Candidate describes how students will use feedback to improve their performance .	Candidate describes how students will use feedback to develop their abilities to comprehend and/or compose text.	
OR The feedback contains significant content inaccuracies.				

ASSESSMENT: USING ASSESSMENT TO INFORM INSTRUCTION				
EL8: How does the candidate use conclusions about what students know and are able to do to plan next steps in instruction?				
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
<p>Next steps do not follow from the analysis.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Next steps are not relevant to the standards and learning objectives assessed.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Next steps are not described in sufficient detail to understand them.</p>	<p>Next steps focus on re-teaching, pacing, or classroom management issues.</p>	<p>Next steps propose general support that improves student performance related to the standards and learning objectives assessed.</p>	<p>Next steps provide targeted support to individuals and groups to improve their performance relative to the standards and learning objectives assessed.</p> <p>Next steps extend student learning beyond what was assessed in the learning segment.</p>	

Analyzing Teaching Rubric

ANALYZING TEACHING EFFECTIVENESS				
EL9: How does the candidate use evidence to evaluate and change teaching practice to meet the varied learning needs?				
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
<p>Candidate proposes changes unrelated to knowledge of students and their learning.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Candidate does not propose any changes.</p>	<p>Proposed changes are focused primarily on improving directions for learning tasks or time management.</p>	<p>Proposed changes address students' collective learning needs related to standards/objectives.</p>	<p>Proposed changes address some individual and collective learning needs related to standards/objectives.</p>	<p>Changes in teaching practice are specific and strategic to improve individual and collective student understanding of standards/objectives.</p>
	<p>Candidate proposes changes that are loosely related to student learning evidence OR are superficially related to knowledge of students' prior learning and experiences.</p>	<p>Candidate cites evidence of student learning OR knowledge of students' prior learning and experiences to explain changes to teaching practices.</p>	<p>Candidate explains changes to teaching practices by citing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • examples of successful and unsuccessful teaching practices • evidence of learning • knowledge of students' prior learning and experiences 	<p>Candidate justifies changes to teaching practices by citing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • examples of successful and unsuccessful teaching practices • analysis of learning evidence • nuanced knowledge of students' prior learning and experiences.

Academic Language in Literacy Rubrics

ACADEMIC LANGUAGE: UNDERSTANDING STUDENTS' LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND ASSOCIATED LANGUAGE DEMANDS				
EL10: How does the candidate use knowledge of students' language development to identify a key language demand central to literacy learning?				
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
<p>Candidate's description of students' academic language development is limited to what they CANNOT do.</p>	<p>Candidate's description of students' academic language development is primarily focused on needs.</p>	<p>Candidate's description of students' academic language development identifies strengths and needs.</p>	<p>Candidate's description of students' academic language development identifies strengths and needs and highlights individual or group differences.</p>	<p>Candidate's description of students' academic language development identifies needs as well as strengths that individual students or groups with similar needs can build upon.</p>
<p>Vocabulary or other identified language demands are only vaguely related to the academic purposes of the learning segment</p>	<p>Candidate identifies unfamiliar vocabulary in the learning segment without considering other language demands or purposes (functions/forms).</p>	<p>Candidate identifies vocabulary as well as a language demand (function/forms) that are central to the learning segment and appropriate to most students' language development.</p>	<p>Candidate justifies why the selected language demand (function/forms) and vocabulary are central to the learning segment and to most students' language development.</p>	<p>Candidate justifies why the selected language demand (function/forms) and vocabulary are central to the learning segment and to students' varied levels of language development.</p>

ACADEMIC LANGUAGE: SCAFFOLDING STUDENTS' ACADEMIC LANGUAGE AND DEEPENING LITERACY LEARNING				
EL11: How does the candidate support academic language development associated with literacy learning?				
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Language and/or content is oversimplified to the point of limiting student access to the core content of the learning segment.	The candidate provides limited support for students to meet the selected language demand of the learning segment.	The candidate provides support so students can use language associated with the selected language demand necessary to engage in literacy tasks.	The candidate provides explicit models and opportunities for practice so students can use language (associated with the language demand) to express and demonstrate their abilities to comprehend and/or compose text.	The candidate provides explicit models, opportunities for practice, and feedback so students can use language (associated with the language demand) to express, develop, and demonstrate their abilities to comprehend and/or compose text.

ACADEMIC LANGUAGE: DEVELOPING STUDENTS' ACADEMIC LANGUAGE AND LITERACY				
EL12: How does the candidate reveal students' understanding and use academic language associated with literacy development?				
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Candidate identifies evidence (from video clip or assessment data) unrelated to the identified language demand.	Candidate identifies limited evidence (from video clip or assessment data) that students had an opportunity to understand and use the identified academic language.	Candidate identifies evidence (from video clip or assessment data) that students had an opportunity to understand and use the identified academic language.	Candidate identifies evidence (from video clip or assessment data) that students are understanding and using targeted academic language in ways that support language and literacy development.	Candidate identifies evidence (from video clip or assessment data) that students with varied strengths and needs are understanding and using targeted academic language in ways that support language and literacy development.

Glossary of Terms for Elementary Literacy

Academic language is oral and written language used for academic purposes. It is the language necessary for students to learn content in schools. Academic language is the means by which students develop and express content understandings. Academic language includes the “language of the discipline” (vocabulary and functions and forms of language associated with learning outcomes in a particular subject) and the “instructional language” used to engage students’ in learning content.

Assessment (formal and informal): Refers to all those activities undertaken by teachers, and by their students, which provide information to be used as feedback to modify the teaching and learning activities in which they are engaged. (See Black & William, 1998.) Assessments provide evidence of students’ prior knowledge, thinking, or learning in order to evaluate what students understand and how they are thinking. Informal assessments may include such things as student questions and responses during instruction and teacher observations or anecdotal records of students as they work. Formal assessments may include such things as classroom and homework assignments, papers, journals, and projects.

Assessment Tools/Procedure: Any method for strategically gathering evidence of student learning (e.g., observing students as they work, posing questions, or more formal written assessments that include evaluation criteria (e.g., rubrics).

Common Core State Standards: The Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects (June, 2010), provide a detailed description of the scope of literacy learning (reading, writing, listening and speaking) across grade level spans. For elementary students (K-5), the Standards address strategies for reading literature and informational texts, writing for a variety of audiences and purposes, foundational skills (including phonological awareness, print concepts, phonics and word recognition, and fluency), conventions of English, and vocabulary acquisition and use.

Central Focus: Is a statement that captures or summarizes the overarching learning outcomes associated with content standards and learning objectives. It may not be as broad or comprehensive as a big idea or essential question used in a longer unit of instruction, but it should represent a focus beyond facts and skills. For example, the central focus for an elementary literacy learning segment might be “making predictions”. All lessons in the learning segment would focus on the conventions, word knowledge, skills and underlying strategies associated with this powerful meaning making focus.

Engaging students in learning: Using instructional and motivational strategies that promote students’ active involvement in learning tasks that increase their knowledge, skills, and abilities related to specific learning objectives. Intellectual engagement in learning contrasts with student participation in learning tasks that are not well-designed and/or implemented and do not increase student learning.

Evaluation Criteria: Evaluation criteria are performance indicators or dimensions that are used to assess evidence of student learning. They indicate the qualities by which levels of performance can be differentiated, and that anchor judgments about the learner’s degree of success on an assessment. Evaluation criteria can be represented in various ways, such as a rubric, a point system for different levels of performance, or rules for awarding full vs. partial credit. Evaluation criteria may examine correctness/accuracy, cognitive complexity, sophistication or elaboration of responses, or quality of explanations.

Instructional language: Language teachers use to direct student engagement in learning (task directions, routines, questions, explanations, etc.) AND language that students need to participate

with each other in a learning activity, task or discussion (questions, explanations, etc. used in whole class, small group, or partner interactions). Instructional language may or may not be subject specific.

Language Demands: Specific ways language (reading, writing, listening and speaking) **will need to be used by students to** participate in learning tasks and demonstrate their learning. Language demands vary by discipline and language function/form.

Language Development: Students' language abilities in terms of speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. All students, including high performing students, can improve their academic language proficiency in terms of precise language choices, more clear and/or complex communication, and greater fluency with discipline specific language.

Language Forms: Structures or ways of organizing oral or written language to serve a particular function within a subject area. Language forms can be at the sentence level, paragraph or whole text level. In the language arts and literacy, language forms include structures for composing, interpreting, and comprehending expository, narrative, poetic, theatric, journalistic, and graphic print materials as well as video and live presentations. If the language function is to interpret character development, then appropriate language forms could include written essays (with particular ways of citing textual evidence) or pattern sentences like "The author used (action, dialogue, and/or description) to introduce (main character). One example of (action, dialogue and/or description) was _____, which suggested that the character was _____."

Language Functions: For viewing, reading, oral and written language in classrooms, the function is the purpose the language is intended to achieve within each subject area. Functions are associated with verbs found in learning outcome statements. Common language functions in the language arts include reading/listening for main ideas and details; analysis and interpretations of characters and plots; writing narrative, informational, or poetic text; using presentation skills to present a play, a speech, or do a dramatic reading; evaluation and interpretation of an author's purpose, message, and use of setting, mood, tone, and other literary strategies; comparison of ideas within and between texts, etc. Common language functions in literacy include using sound-letter correspondence and letter/word patterns to decode words; making sense of unfamiliar vocabulary through pictures, word parts, and contextual clues; comprehension of main ideas and important details from text, video, and other media; using prediction, personal experiences, prior knowledge, and text features to aid in comprehension.

Learning objectives: Student learning outcomes to be achieved by the end of the lesson or learning segment.

Learning segment: A set of 3-5 lessons that build one upon another toward a central focus, with a clearly defined beginning and end.

Prior learning and experience: Includes students' academic content knowledge, language development, social/emotional development, family/cultural assets, interests and lived experiences.

Scaffolding: A special type of instructional support to allow students to do a task that they cannot yet do independently. Like scaffolding for buildings under construction, the support is designed to be temporary and to be removed or gradually reduced as students learn to do the task by themselves.

Social and Emotional Development: Refers the ways in which children and adolescents develop understandings of self and others. Milestones at various levels of development include identity formation, self-awareness/self concept, pro-social behavior, peer relationships, social responsibility, and moral reasoning.

Special needs: Refers to categories addressed by federal law (Individuals with Disabilities Act), identified learning disabilities, gifted and talented, and other features of student learning that may require individualized instruction or assessment.

Context for Learning Information

The Context for Learning Information is included in this Pre-Release Handbook. It will be moved to a template in the Field Test Final Handbook.

About the School Where You Are Teaching

- In what type of school do you teach?
 Elementary school Middle school
 Other (please describe) _____
- urban suburban rural _____
- List any special features of your school or classroom setting (e.g., themed magnet, students are tracked into the class, classroom aide, bilingual, team taught with a special education teacher) that will affect your teaching in this learning segment.
- Describe any district, school, or cooperating teacher requirements or expectations that might affect your planning or delivery of instruction, such as required curricula, pacing plan, use of specific instructional strategies, or standardized tests.

About the Class Featured in this Assessment

- How much time is devoted each day to literacy instruction in your classroom?

- Identify any textbook or instructional program you primarily use for literacy instruction. If a textbook, please provide the title, publisher, and date of publication.
- List other resources (e.g., SmartBoard, hands on materials, on-line technology resources) you use for literacy instruction in this class.

About the Students in the Class Featured in this Assessment

- Percentage of students eligible for free/reduced lunch _____
- Grade level(s), _____
- Number of
 - students in the class _____
 - males _____ females _____
 - English language learners _____
 - students identified as gifted and talented _____
 - students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) or 504 plans _____
- Complete the chart below to summarize required accommodations or modifications for students receiving special education services and/or students who are gifted and talented as they **will affect your literacy instruction and assessment in this learning segment**. As needed, consult with your cooperating teacher to complete the chart. The first row has been completed in italics as an example. Use as many rows as you need.

Special Needs	Number of Students	Accommodations, Modifications and/or Pertinent IEP Goals
Example: <i>Learning Disability</i>	Example: <i>4</i>	Example: <i>Close monitoring, follow up, and Resource Room</i>