

2018-19 New  
York State  
Alternate  
Assessment  
(NYSAA)

## Writing Testlets

There are two types of writing testlets:

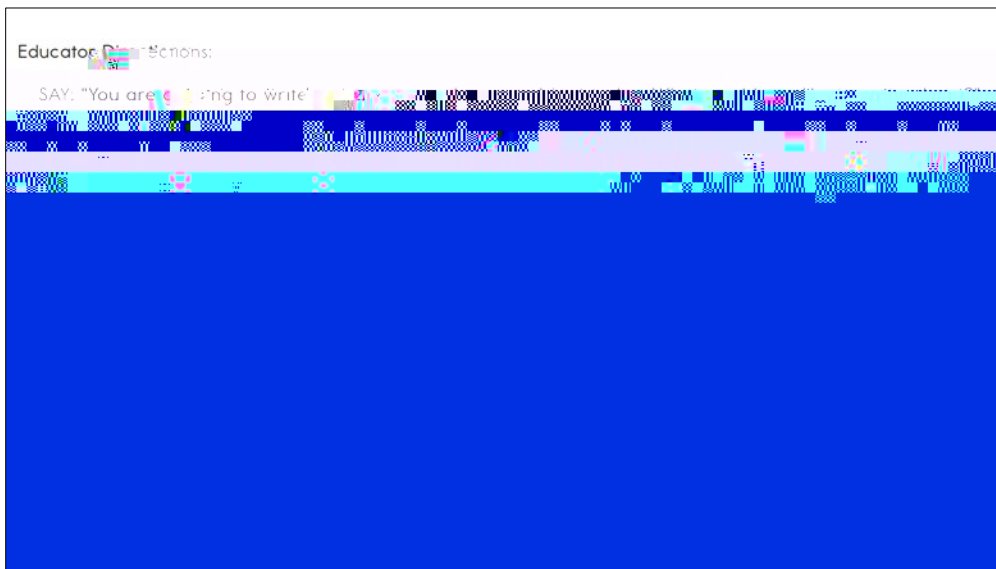
- x Emergent writing testlets are used for students who do not yet have or are working on early symbolic understanding.
- x Conventional writing testlets are used for students who have mastered Essential Elements 1.0 Tw 3.73.0 Tw 1.0
  - white boards
  - traditional keyboards using word processing software
  - adapted keyboards that include all 26 letters of the alphabet
  - tablet computer keyboards using word processing software
  - any keyboard using word-prediction software
  - alternate pencils, including alphabet flip charts, talking pencils, and letter-by-letter dictation devices
  - eyegaze displays of letters, and letter-by-letter dictation devices
  - a test administrator acting as a scribe, provided that the scribe is dictating letters in order to construct words.

The DLM writing testlets assess a student's ability to communicate through writing. The DLM writing testlets assess precursor skills that lead to writing. Because these skills focus on

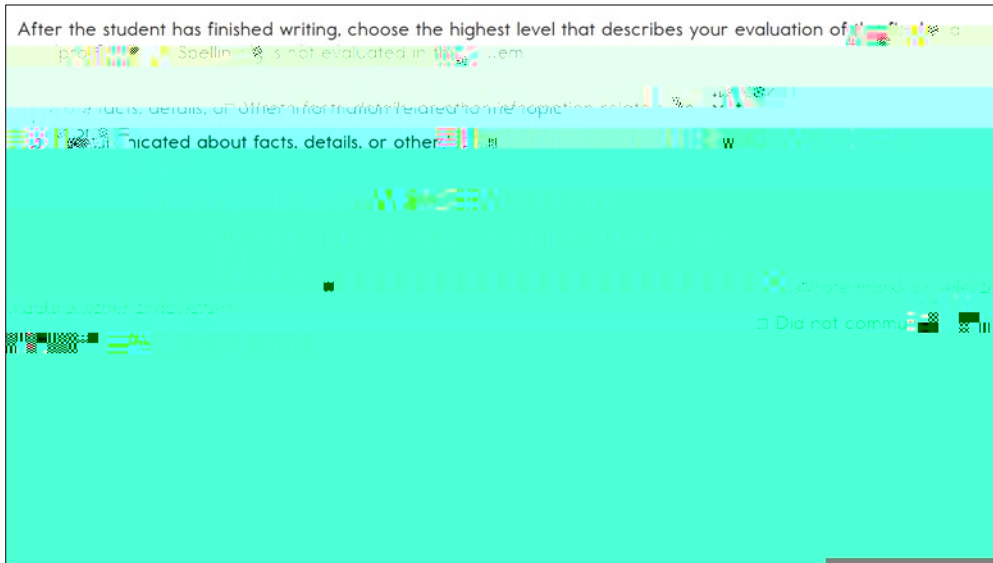
words, and the expression of ideas through words, picture or word selection is not an appropriate method of composing text for the DLM alternate assessment writing testlets. When the testlet response options refer to “writing” or “the student wrote,” this can include any method the student uses for writing.

During both types of writing testlets, the test administrator and the student participate in an engagement activity related to choosing a topic about which to write. In emergent writing testlets, students often choose from a list of topics that they have been exposed to during instruction. Students taking conventional writing testlets also write about familiar topics. The Kite system does not pre-select topics for writing assessments. If able, the student should independently select a subject on which to write. The subject should focus on an informational topic that is relevant to instruction and familiar to the student.

In writing testlets, the test administrator delivers a structured writing activity to the student. The test administrator follows a series of onscreen instructions that guide the activity. The activity assesses the student’s abilities to use writing to communicate about information at an appropriate level given the student’s symbolic understanding.



The test administrator is given prompts to ask the student to engage in writing tasks. The test administrator answers questions in Kite Student Portal to evaluate the student’s response after each prompt.



\*The student's writing product must be kept on file at the district for a period of one year following test administration.

For more information on administering writing testlets, please visit:

<https://dynamiclearningmaps.org/erp/videos#WritingTestletVideo>

For additional professional development on emergent and conventional writing instruction please visit the modules associated with writing found at:

<https://www.dlmpd.com/>