

Grades 9–12

Tier B/C



ACCESS for ELLs®

Sample Writing Tasks: Environmental Scholarship

Using this document

Review this sample item to gain a better understanding of the look, feel, and process of the ACCESS for ELLs Writing test. Use this item in any way that is helpful for you and your students. If practical for your classroom, WIDA strongly encourages you to do a full mock administration of this sample item, as a realistic administration can help prepare your students for the real test.

If you do plan a mock administration, set aside 45 minutes to explain the activity and allow students to answer the questions. Create materials for the mock administration by printing:

- One copy of page 1 for yourself.
- One copy of pages 2–5 for each student. (Print single sided)

Introducing the sample item

Explain to your students that they are about to complete a writing exercise. This exercise is similar to a test they will take in the future. The test will be their opportunity to demonstrate their English proficiency in writing, and this practice exercise will help them get ready for the test.

When the students are ready and understand what they are going to do, pass out the test materials. Each student needs a complete copy of the sample test items and a pencil.

Ask the students to write their name at the top of each page.

Monitoring the test

Monitor the students. Check to make sure everyone is following directions. When the students have finished writing, encourage them to check their work using the questions on the last page.

If students are working productively at the end of 30 minutes and need more time, allow them no more than 5 additional minutes to complete their work and then say: ***Please finish what you are writing now.*** PAUSE.

End the testing session by saying:

Please put your pencil down, and I will collect your papers.

Part C: Environmental Scholarship

John Muir and Aldo Leopold helped to preserve, or protect, nature and wild lands. Read about the lives and accomplishments of John Muir and Aldo Leopold listed on the resumes below.

John Muir (1838–1914)

Early Life:

- Born 1838 in Scotland
- Grew up on a farm in Wisconsin
- Studied plant science, or botany, and geology



John Muir in Yosemite Valley on California quarter

Legacy and Activism:

- Helped establish Yosemite National Park
- Showed people the value of preserving nature
- Woods named for him; appears on U.S. quarter
- Founded Sierra Club, which works to protect wild places

Career and Experiences:

- Wrote many articles and books
- Lived in a cabin on Yosemite Creek in California
- Explored Alaska and fought to preserve many natural areas such as the Grand Canyon

Writings:

- Wrote *A Thousand-Mile Walk to the Gulf*, journal of his walk from Indiana to the Gulf of Mexico

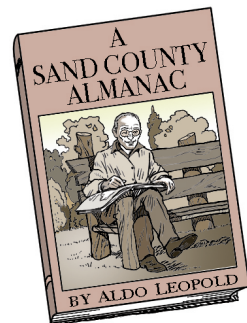


John Muir legacy: some areas protected in U.S. today

Aldo Leopold (1887–1948)

Early Life:

- Born 1887 in Iowa
- Explored woods near his home during childhood
- Studied forestry at Yale University



Aldo Leopold's popular essays about experiences with nature

Legacy and Activism:

- Proposed the first wilderness area in a national forest, the Gila Wilderness in New Mexico
- Helped people understand importance of keeping wild lands and ecosystems healthy
- Wilderness area named for him
- Helped start a society for wildlife specialists

Career and Experiences:

- Taught courses on care of wild animals and their habitats at University of Wisconsin
- Worked for the U.S. Forest Service
- Developed plans to care for forests

Writings:

- Wrote *A Sand County Almanac*



Aldo Leopold legacy: some areas protected in U.S. today

Name: _____

Plan your writing

Your principal is deciding whether to name a new environmental scholarship for John Muir or Aldo Leopold. She wants to choose a person who was dedicated to protecting nature. On the next page you will write a letter to your principal explaining whom the scholarship should be named for and why.

Think carefully about these questions to get ideas for your writing.

- ☐ How might the United States be different without the legacy and activism of Aldo Leopold and John Muir?
- ☐ How are the two resumes similar? How are they different?
- ☐ Which person is a better choice for the scholarship name?
- ☐ How can you summarize the reasons for your choice?

Use this space to organize your ideas about whom the environmental scholarship should be named for. You can make notes, an outline, a web, or any other kind of graphic organizer. Add details. Write your letter on the next page.

Write your letter on the next page. 

Name: _____

Now it's your turn to write!

Write a letter to your principal explaining why you choose John Muir or Aldo Leopold for the new scholarship's name. Compare and contrast details from both resumes to support your choice.

[illegible]

You can write on the next page, too. —————→

Name: _____

[illegible]

You can write on the next page, too. 

Name: _____

[illegible]

Now check your writing. Ask yourself:

- ☐ Did I write a beginning?
- ☐ Did I support my main points with details?
- ☐ Did I write an ending?
- ☐ Did I choose the best words for my writing?
- ☐ Did I organize my writing?
- ☐ Did I make my ideas clear?

