Sample Writing Item: Flowers at the Park

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: for example, you might assign this item as homework, as an in-class exercise, or as a group activity. If practical for your classroom, WIDA strongly encourages you to use the sample test administrator script 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, read through this document and set aside 30 minutes to explain the activity and allow students to write their responses. Create materials for the mock administration by printing:

- One copy of pages 2 and 3 for each student.
- One copy of page 5 for yourself.

Explain to your students what they will do, and then read the script provided to administer the sample item.
Flowers at the Park

Look at the pictures below. Think about what is happening in the pictures.

A

B
Now it's your turn to write!

1. Who do you see in Picture A? Make a list.
   1. boy
   2. 
   3. 
   4. 

2. Describe what you see in Picture A.
   1. The boy is reading the map.
   2. 
   3. 
   4. 

3. Look at Pictures A and B. Write a story about the family looking for flowers at the park. Write 3 to 5 sentences.
### How to Read the Script

The script includes text that is read aloud during test administration as well as directions for the test administrator.

- Read aloud all **bold** text. Instructions students hear are **black and bold**. Test items are **blue and bold**.
- Do NOT read unbolded text aloud. Unbolded text gives direction to the test administrator.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Read all bold text aloud.</th>
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This page says, “Part C.”

Hold up the next page of the script to show Part C. Scan the room and make sure all students are in the right place.

**It says,**

“What is happening in the picture?”

In this part, write about what the class is doing. Number 5 is done for you. What does it say?

Allow time for students to respond, or say: **It says, “The teacher is giving a pencil to a girl.”**

Look back at the big picture. Find the teacher giving a pencil to a girl. **PAUSE.**

**What else do you see happening in the picture?**

Allow time for students to respond.

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<th>Do NOT read this text aloud. All unbolded text serves only as a guide for the test administrator.</th>
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| Read all blue and bold text aloud. |

| Read italicized black and bold text aloud when necessary. |

### Introducing the Sample Item

Explain to your students that they're 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 writing skills in English, and this practice exercise will help them get ready for the test.

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

Read the script below to guide students through the writing task.
Look at the page with the pictures. At the top of this page, it says, “Flowers at the Park.”

Scan the room and make sure all students are in the right place.

Look at the sentences under the black box. They say,

“Look at the pictures below. Think about what is happening in the pictures.”

Look at Pictures A and B. This family is at a park. They are using the map to help them look for flowers. Think about the story you see in the pictures. PAUSE 10 SECONDS.

Look at the top of the next page. It says, “Now it’s your turn to write!”

Scan the room and make sure all students are in the right place.

First, we will go through this page together. Then you will start writing. Look at number 1 in the black circle. It says,

“Who do you see in Picture A? Make a list.”

The first one is done for you. What does it say?

Allow time for the students to respond. If necessary, say: It says, “boy.”

When we begin, you will write here about the other people you see in Picture A. Now look at number 2 in the black circle. It says,

“Describe what you see in Picture A.”

The first one here is also done for you. What does it say?

Allow time for the students to respond. If necessary, say: It says, “The boy is reading the map.”

On the other lines, you will write sentences about where the people are, what they are doing, or what is around them in Picture A. Now look at number 3 in the black circle. It says,

“Look at Pictures A and B. Write a story about the family looking for flowers at the park. Write 3 to 5 sentences.”

Here, you will write a story about what you see in Pictures A and B. You will write what happened in the beginning and what happened at the end. Do you have any questions?

Answer questions.

You have about 15 minutes to do this part. Stop when you get to the stop sign.

You may begin.

Monitor the students’ work. When students have finished, remind them to check their work.

Allow a reasonable amount of time for everyone to attempt to write something. End the test when all students have finished writing or about 15 minutes have passed.

If some students are still writing, say: Please finish what you are writing now. PAUSE 15 SECONDS.

End the testing session by saying:

Please put down your pencils, and I will come around to collect your writing.