



WIDA ACCESS Test Prep: Supporting English Learners

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December 2, 2024

Preparing English learners (ELs) for the WIDA ACCESS assessments requires intentional practice in the four language domains: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Effective test preparation strategies help students build confidence and develop the skills necessary for success on the assessment. Here are three ways teachers can prepare ELs for the WIDA ACCESS assessment are:

1. **Familiarize Students with the Test Format:** Providing practice tests or sample questions helps students become familiar with the structure and types of tasks they will encounter on the WIDA ACCESS assessment. This reduces test anxiety and allows them to practice in a test-like setting.
2. **Focus on Academic Vocabulary:** Since the WIDA ACCESS test evaluates academic language proficiency, focusing on academic vocabulary in context is crucial. Teachers should teach key terms and phrases across content areas, using visuals, context, and practice exercises to reinforce understanding.
3. **Provide Speaking and Writing Practice:** The speaking and writing domains are critical components of the WIDA ACCESS test. Teachers can provide regular opportunities for students to engage in structured speaking activities and respond to writing prompts, using scaffolding techniques like sentence starters and graphic organizers to support their responses.

These strategies build foundational skills and boost students' confidence for the test.

Padlet has been used to [compile resources to support Nevada students in preparing for the WIDA test](#), including Google Slides specifically designed for the speaking and writing domains. These Google Slides can be found under the Speaking & Writing section within the WIDA ACCESS for ELs Padlet and are adaptable for whole group, small group, or individual instruction, with a virtual version also available. The slides cover several topics, each divided into three tasks: making observations, responding to a writing prompt, and recording a spoken response. These activities provide valuable practice for the writing and speaking portions of the ACCESS test, helping students develop speaking fluency and writing skills through meaningful engagement. The creator of these slides is [HelloELLteacher](#).



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By integrating resources like these into daily instruction, teachers can ensure that ELs are well-prepared to demonstrate their language proficiency on the WIDA ACCESS assessments.

NVTESOL is here to support you with more resources and professional learning opportunities. Stay connected with us for more strategies and updates tailored for Nevada educators!