



Computer-Based Sample Test Scoring Guide Grade 8 ELA Writing



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Prepared by the Arizona Department of Education*

About the Sample Test Scoring Guide

The Arizona’s Academic Standards Assessment (AASA) Sample Test Scoring Guides provide details about the items, student response types, correct responses, and related scoring considerations for AASA Sample Test items.

Within this guide, each item is presented with the following information:

- Item number
- Strand
- Cluster
- Content Standard
- Depth of Knowledge (DOK)
- Static presentation of the item
- Static presentation of student response field (when appropriate)
- Answer key, rubric or exemplar
- Applicable score point(s) for each item

The items included in this guide are representative of the kinds of items that students can expect to experience when taking the computer-based test for AASA Grade 8 ELA Writing.

Grade 8 Sample Test – Writing

Item Number	Strand	Cluster	Content Standard	DOK
1	Writing	Text Types and Purposes	8.W.1	4

Passages:

- *Source 1: A Tale of Two Ages*
- *Source 2: The Discovery of the Nebra Sky Disk*
- *Source 3: An Age To Be Determined*

The Nebra Sky Disk

Some scientists claim the Nebra Sky Disk is an artifact from the Bronze Age, while others claim it was created during the Iron Age.

Write a multi-paragraph argumentative essay in which you support a claim about whether the Nebra Sky Disk was made in the Bronze Age or in the Iron Age. Use information from the sources in your essay.

Manage your time carefully so that you can do the following actions:

- Read the sources.
- Plan your response.
- Write your response.
- Revise and edit your response.

Be sure to include the following tasks:

- Include a claim.
- Address counterclaims.
- Use evidence from multiple sources.
- Avoid overly relying on one source.

Your response should be in the form of a multi-paragraph essay. Enter your response in the space provided.

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Argumentative Writing Guide

Purpose, Focus, and Organization

The response is fully sustained and consistently focused within the purpose, audience, and task; and it has a clear claim and effective organizational structure creating coherence and completeness. The response includes most of the following:

- Strongly maintained opinion with little or no loosely related material
- Clearly addressed alternate or opposing claims
- Skillful use of a variety of transitional strategies to clarify the relationships between and among ideas
- Logical progression of ideas from beginning to end, including a satisfying introduction and conclusion
- Appropriate style and tone established and maintained

Evidence and Elaboration

The response provides thorough, convincing, and credible support, citing evidence for the writer's claim that includes the effective use of sources, facts, and details. The response includes most of the following:

- Smoothly integrated, thorough, and relevant evidence, including precise references to sources
- Effective use of a variety of elaborative techniques to support the claim, demonstrating an understanding of the topic and text
- Clear and effective expression of ideas, using precise language
- Academic and domain-specific vocabulary clearly appropriate for the audience and purpose
- Varied sentence structure, demonstrating language facility

Conventions

The response demonstrates an adequate command of basic conventions. The response may include the following:

- Some minor errors in usage, but no patterns of errors
- Adequate use of punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation, and spelling

References and Citations

When referring to evidence and information from passages, students should use paraphrasing and short quotations. To credit sources, students should use informal, in-text citations (e.g., MLA author or title tags).

Top Score Response

- If students choose that the Nebra Sky Disk was from the Bronze Age, a complete response will provide support for the claim that the finding is as old and valuable as the others in the cache. Details and evidence may include but are not limited to:
 - Evidence that the other items are from the Bronze Age should be provided.
 - "First, the other items found with the disk were definitively dated to the Bronze Age." (Source 1)
 - "The disk was thought to be from the Bronze Age primarily because the two men who discovered it, Henry Westphal and Mario Renner, claim they found it among a stash of buried Bronze Age weapons and bracelets." (Source 2)
 - "Since anyone who finds ancient relics is not allowed to keep or sell them, why would these men lie about where it was found?" (Source 2)
 - Evidence that the Bronze Age dating makes it more significant.
 - "If the disk is an authentic Bronze Age object, it would be the oldest known illustration of the night sky." (Source 3)
 - "If the disk is from the Bronze Age, it would be the oldest known object to represent the night sky, an incredible finding. " (Source 1)
 - Evidence that the soil contains contaminants from the shield should be provided.
 - "The soil contained traces of gold and copper, which would have been expected if the Nebra Disk had been buried in that location for thousands of years. For a short time, most scientists conceded that this was suitable evidence." (Source 3)
 - "Additionally, matching metal traces were detected in the dirt where the disk was supposedly located. Scientists believe this means the disk had been in place for thousands of years, leaking metals into the soil." (Source 1)
- A complete response will acknowledge information from the other passages and the counterclaim. Example may include, but are not limited to:
 - The unusual nature of it being from the Bronze Age.
 - "The soil analysis performed in the new study, along with traces of elements found in the disk, indicate that it was originally buried at a different location and was only later added to the other site. Naturally, the scholars who first studied the disk argued that the new study was flawed. " (Source 3)
 - The argument for it being from the Iron Age.
 - "Often, Iron Age swords and other objects from the period were, like the Nebra Sky Disk, decorated with stars and moons." (Source 3)

Top Score Response (continued)

- If students choose that the Nebra Sky Disk was from the Iron Age, a complete response will provide support for the claim that the disk cannot be as old as some say it is. Details and evidence may include but are not limited to:
 - Evidence that it doesn't fit with the style of the Bronze Age should be provided.
 - "The imagery on the disk is very unusual for the Bronze Age." (Source 1)
 - "Scientists learn new pieces of information about our history from them, so an unexpected artifact like the Nebra Sky Disk is not necessarily a fraud." (Source 2)
 - "They argued that the design was very similar to objects from the Iron Age, which is a more recent historical period. Often, Iron Age swords and other objects from the period were, like the Nebra Sky Disk, decorated with stars and moons." (Source 3)
 - "One archaeologist thought the holes punched along the edges were too perfect for a Bronze Age piece." (Source 3)
 - Evidence that the soil samples were wrong at first and now show a different location should be provided.
 - "They sent off soil samples that they claimed were from the area where the looters found the disk. The soil contained traces of gold and copper, which would have been expected if the Nebra Disk had been buried in that location for thousands of years." (Source 3)
 - "Also, archaeologists argue that the prior soil studies indicating authenticity are inaccurate." (Source 1)
 - Evidence that the people who found the disk are not credible should be provided.
 - "Unfortunately, the disk's location is based only on the word of looters and thieves. Some scholars even argue it is more likely that the disk was found elsewhere and that the looters only claimed to have found it with the other items because this would increase the disk's value significantly." (Source 1)
 - "Did they place the disk among those items in hopes of making more money? At first, this theory makes sense—after all, a Bronze Age item is worth more because it is older." (Source 2)

Top Score Response (continued)

- A complete response will acknowledge information from the other passages and the counterclaim. Example may include, but are not limited to:
 - The motivation of the people who found the disk.
 - "Since anyone who finds ancient relics is not allowed to keep or sell them, why would these men lie about where it was found? " (Source 2)
 - Initial soil samples confirmed it was from the location the looters claim.
 - "The soil contained traces of gold and copper, which would have been expected if the Nebra Disk had been buried in that location for thousands of years. " (Source 3)
 - Other items in the cache are from the Bronze Age.
 - "It was recovered in 2002 from looters who said they had dug it up in Nebra, Germany, along with a collection of weapons and bracelets. " (Source 1)

(10 Points)