

Dr. Amy Hsu  
Professional Development Day  
Fall 2014

# Test-Taking Strategies for the ALST

# Test Description

- The ALST measures academic literacy skills necessary to teach effectively in New York State public schools.
- From the ALST Framework:
  - “The test consists of selected-response items, followed by focused constructed-response items and an extended writing assignment.”
  - “Each item requires the analysis of complex literary or informational text.”

# Test Format

Competency	Selected-Response		Constructed-Response	
	Approximate Number of Items	Approximate Percentage of Test Score	Number of Items	Approximate Percentage of Test Score
0001 Reading	40	40%	--	--
0002 Writing to Sources	--	--	2 focused response  1 extended response	60%
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>60%</b>

Copyright © 2014 by the New York State Education Department

# Registration

- Exam Fee: \$131
- Registration:
  - <http://www.nystce.nesinc.com/>
- Computer based testing sites:
  - [www.pearsonvue.com/es/locate/](http://www.pearsonvue.com/es/locate/)

# Testing Strategies

# Plan Your Time

## From the exam framework:

The total testing time is 210 minutes. Candidates are free to set their own pace during the test administration. The following estimates were used to determine the total test time:

- Each focused constructed-response item is designed with the expectation of a response up to 20 minutes.
- The extended writing assignment is designed with the expectation of a response up to 60 minutes.
- The selected-response items are designed with the expectation of response time up to 110 minutes.

Constructed response items count for 60% of your total score.  
The selected response items are 40% of your total score.

Copyright © 2014 by the New York State Education Department

# Computer-Based Platform

- The ALST is only offered through computer-based testing, which may be a new format for many candidates.
- Computer-based testing tutorial  
[http://www.nystce.nesinc.com/NY\\_CBTTutorial.asp](http://www.nystce.nesinc.com/NY_CBTTutorial.asp)

# Computer-Based Testing Strategies

- Note taking
  - “Whiteboard” to take notes
- Navigating the System
  - Move to different parts of the test using the “navigator” feature
- Flagging Questions for Review
  - Allows you to identify questions you skipped or want to come back to



# Test-Taking Strategies

- Read the questions first before reading the passages
- Note taking: using the whiteboard to note key terms and ideas
- Make sure the answer is supported by the text

# Sample Questions

---

- Use strategies to answer some sample questions

# Review the Rubrics

## Extended Response

- CONTENT AND ANALYSIS
- COMMAND OF EVIDENCE
- COHERENCE, ORGANIZATION, AND STYLE
- CONTROL OF CONVENTIONS

## Focused Response

- CONTENT
- ANALYSIS, EVALUATION, AND INTEGRATION
- COMMAND OF EVIDENCE
- COHERENCE AND CLARITY

# Writing Strategies

- Read the writing prompts first so you know what evidence to look for
- As you read passages, take note of evidence you may want to include in your constructed response
- Plan your format: Claim, Evidence, Analysis

# Sample Constructed Response

- Look at sample from NYSTCE site and discuss
- [http://www.nystce.nesinc.com/STUDYGUIDE/NY\\_SG\\_CRI\\_202.htm#perf](http://www.nystce.nesinc.com/STUDYGUIDE/NY_SG_CRI_202.htm#perf)

- Questions and Comments