



**NEW ENGLAND
COMMON ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

**Released Items
Support Materials
2005**

**Grade 8
Writing**

**NECAP 2005 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 8 WRITING**

- 11 Imagine there is a storm coming across a lake. Write a description of the approaching storm. Use sensory language and varied sentence structures to develop your description.

Scoring Guide:

Score	Description
4	Response is a well-organized paragraph that clearly describes a storm from the appropriate point of view. The response contains descriptive details and a clear focus, and maintains that focus throughout. Response contains varied sentence length and structure.
3	Response generally describes a storm from the appropriate point of view. The response contains some descriptive details and a clear focus but there may be minor lapses.
2	Response is an attempt at a description of a storm. The response may depart from the appropriate point of view, or there may be major lapses in the focus.
1	Response may be unclear and/or a minimal attempt at a response to the prompt.
0	Response is irrelevant.
Blank	no response

SCORE POINT 4

11

A STORM IS COMING

As I walk through a screen door out on to a stone terrace, my feet cringe and scrunch from the cold of hard granite. I flail my arms out into the air stretching my entire body and yawn. I inhale a large amount of moist air, when I hear a low pitched rumble out in the distance. I look far out onto Lake Champlain shielding my eyes from the dusk's neon pink sun. My eyes scan over the glimmering waters, but suddenly jump out of their sockets, when I hear a loud crack, as if someone has just whipped my bare back. I squint my eyes and move them to a darker spot on the lake. A massive blob of black distorts the pretty pink view from my house on the lake. The blob moves faster, taking over the sky. Furious forks of lightning reach down to the water and strike it. The rumbling becomes louder, and the cracks more fierce. I quickly hurry back inside, and huddle myself up on a couch, watching the oncoming train of black maul my house.

SCORE POINT 3

11 As I sat in my bedroom, looking out my window I could see the storm blazing across the lake. Even though it was 9:00 at night it felt like daylight because of the bright lightning. In the sky it looked like a lamp flickering on and off. Then all of a sudden you hear a loud "bang." The thunder sounded like a door slamming when I'm in a raging mood. You could see the water smash up against the rocks so hard it turned white. At 10:27, when I looked at the clock, every thing had stopped. An on I went to bed.

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SCORE POINT 2

11 When there is a storm coming across the lake you would probably feel wind in your hair. You might see some ducks. You would probably see a bunch of rain clouds coming your way. On the other side of the lake you might see kids trying to take cover in their houses.

SCORE POINT 1

11 I was come out of my house. I was go to my lake and I seen a thunder storm. I ran back in my house. and walk down to the shelter the thunder storm knot down my house.

NECAP 2005 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 8 WRITING

SCORE POINT 0

11

car big problem
broaking brizie.

**NECAP 2005 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 8 WRITING**

- 12 Some people use cell phones while in restaurants, stores, movies, or even when they are driving. Is this good for our society? Write a paragraph that develops **one** strong argument to persuade the reader to agree with your opinion.

Scoring Guide:

Score	Description
4	Response provides a position on the question of cell phone use and includes an attempt to persuade the reader to agree with the writer's opinion. The paragraph contains a relevant focus/controlling idea and details that support the focus.
3	Response provides a position on the question of cell phone use and includes an attempt to persuade the reader to agree with the writer's opinion. The paragraph contains a relevant focus/controlling idea and appropriate details. There may be minor lapses in focus and/or details that lack development or specificity.
2	Response is an attempt at a paragraph that provides a position and attempts to persuade the reader. There may be major lapses in focus (e.g., the position and support may be unclear).
1	Response is undeveloped or contains an unclear focus (i.e., there is little evidence of a position or support).
0	Response is irrelevant.
Blank	no response

SCORE POINT 4

12 The creation of cell phones has changed how people are today, but is using them everywhere always a good thing? Today people use cell phones when in restaurants, stores, movies, and sometimes when they are driving. I believe that having cell phones is very important. They are a way of communicating with people when you are nowhere near them. In case of emergencies, important events, trouble, or updates cell phones come in handy. If people did not have cell phones life would be different and harder. Without cell phones people would not be able to communicate on the go. People would have to make all phone calls while at home or at work. At the time when these people are driving they couldn't be reached, which in case of emergency, can be trouble. All in all I think cell phones are good for society they are a major form of communication when it comes to making plans, emergencies, school events, or just a time for a chat with a friend.

SCORE POINT 3

12 People use Cell phones all the time. But while you are out or doing something they may not be so good to use. Many people use cell phones while driving. When you're driving that may be very dangerous. You could get into a car accident, you're endangering your life and maybe even others. Even having them at restaurants is not a very good idea. Cell phones are very rude and you may not be paying attention to what you're doing. Some people do not pay attention without cell phones so now they may be more distracted. People's lives could be ruined or even lost.

SCORE POINT 2

- 12 Using cell phones much of the time allows us to keep in touch with people. Having a cell phone can be a great benefit. It allows you to reach people when you don't know exactly where they are. It makes it easier to keep in touch with people you rarely see. They allow us to communicate with people all over. Expanding our ability to talk with others.

SCORE POINT 1

- 12 Cell phones are good for our society because we can tell if kids are ok. You can get an aported call from work. You can use them to call a friend. That is how inportent they are.

NECAP 2005 RELEASED ITEMS
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SCORE POINT 0

12 people return isbell
phone so they can
knew ones or there
plan is up also
people return model
for newer models carma
PHONE

**NECAP 2005 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 8 WRITING**

- 13 What does the poet compare a poem to? Write a paragraph that explains how the poet makes this comparison. Include details from the poem to support your response.

Scoring Guide:

Score	Description
4	Response identifies the comparison and provides a clear explanation of how the poet makes the comparison. The paragraph maintains the focus/purpose throughout, includes supporting details, and is well-organized.
3	Response identifies the comparison and provides a general explanation of how the poet makes the comparison. The paragraph maintains the focus/purpose, but there may be minor lapses. The response includes some supporting details and is generally well-organized.
2	Response contains an attempt to identify the comparison and explain how the poet makes the comparison. The response contains major lapses in focus/purpose and/or few relevant supporting details from the text.
1	Response is a minimal or vague statement about the comparison in the poem.
0	Response is irrelevant.
Blank	no response

Scoring Notes:

The poet compares a poem to eating/food.

Comparison is developed by showing that reading a poem should not be more difficult than eating:

It doesn't have to be a formal task, it can be informal and enjoyable: "pick it up with your fingers and lick the juice that may run down your chin."

You don't need special equipment: "you may not need a knife or fork or spoon," etc.

SCORE POINT 4

13 The poet compares a poem to a juicy, ripe fruit. Firstly, it states the two are similar because getting into or reading a poem is like biting into a juicy fruit. Next, when the poem says "it is ready and ripe now, whenever you are" the poet is saying that you can read a poem at any time or any place; whenever you are ready to. Then the poem begins to tell why the two things are different. When it states "you do not need a knife or fork or spoon or plate or napkin or tablecloth" it is saying that we are eating a fruit, reading a poem does not require anything else other than yourself. Lastly, the poem says that when reading a poem there is nothing to throw away. This means that unlike a fruit, there is no excess; you take in the whole poem.

SCORE POINT 3

13 The poet is comparing a poem to eating food. The poet states that, "for there is no core." That basically means a poem can go on forever and never have an end. They also wrote "Don't be polite, bite in," I think that part in the poem is describing that poems don't need to be about good things. One more thing this poet said was that, "You don't need a knife or fork or spoon or plate or napkin or tablecloth." That means that to write poems, all you need is your mind.

SCORE POINT 2

13 The poet compares a poem to a piece of fruit. She mentions how you do not need any eating utensils to bite in and how there is none of the mess after you eat it. There is not stem, rind, pit, etc. shows it is talking about fruit. She mentions how it is already to eat which I take in as ready to read whenever you want it will always be there.

SCORE POINT 1

13 I think that Poem 13 is trying to tell us that you can just go ahead and read the poem and you will understand the poem once you read the poem like you eat an apple just go in and start eating the apple.

SCORE POINT 0

13 A poet compare there
poem by makeing on. They
compare poem by making rymme that
haw they do in poem. they now have
to compare a poem but I don't.
Frist they make one word then
they the other word to see if it
make rymms ~~at~~ with the other word
they saide

**NECAP 2005 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 8 WRITING**

Is babysitting the right job for you? Write a response, using information from the passage and your own ideas.

- 14 What is the focus/controlling idea of your response?

Scoring Guide:

Score	Description
1	Response contains an appropriate focus/controlling idea related to the prompt. The focus/controlling idea may or may not be developed in the response.
0	Response is irrelevant.
Blank	no response

- 15 What are the supporting details/references to text in your response?

Scoring Guide:

Score	Description
1	Response contains appropriate supporting details/references to text related to the prompt. The supporting details/references may or may not appear in the text, as long as they are a logical extension of the ideas presented. The supporting details/references may or may not be used in the response.
0	Response is irrelevant.
Blank	no response

**NECAP 2005 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 8 WRITING**

16 What is the conclusion to your response?

Scoring Guide:

Score	Description
1	Response contains an appropriate conclusion related to the prompt. The conclusion may or may not be used in the response.
0	Response is irrelevant.
Blank	no response

17 Is babysitting the right job for you? Write a response, using information from the passage and your own ideas.

Scoring Guide:

Score	Description
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose is clear throughout; a strong focus/controlling idea OR strongly stated purpose focuses the writing. • Writing is intentionally organized for effect. • Fully developed details and rich and/or insightful elaboration support the purpose. • Distinctive voice, tone, and style enhance meaning. • Writing shows consistent application of the rules of grade-level grammar, usage, and mechanics.
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose is clear; a focus/controlling idea is maintained throughout. • Writing is well-organized and coherent throughout. • Details are relevant and support the purpose; details are sufficiently elaborated. • Writing shows strong command of sentence structure and uses language to enhance meaning. • Writing shows consistent application of the rules of grade-level grammar, usage, and mechanics.
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose is evident; a focus/controlling idea may not be maintained. • Writing is generally organized and coherent. • Details are relevant and mostly support the purpose. • Writing contains well-constructed sentences and uses language well. • Writing may show inconsistent control of grade-level grammar, usage, and mechanics.

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Scoring Guide (continued):

3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Writing has a general purpose.• Writing has some sense of organization but may have lapses in coherence.• Some relevant details support the purpose.• Writing uses language adequately but may show little variety of sentence structures.• Writing may contain some serious errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics.
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Writing has an attempted or vague purpose but stays on topic.• Writing has little evidence of organization; there are lapses in coherence.• Writing generalizes or lists details.• Writing lacks sentence control and uses language poorly.• Errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics are distracting.
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is a lack of evident purpose; topic may not be clear.• Writing has incoherent or underdeveloped organization.• Writing contains random information.• Writing shows rudimentary or deficient use of language.• Writing has serious and persistent errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics throughout.
0	Writing is irrelevant.
Blank	no response

NECAP 2005 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 8 WRITING

SCORE POINT 1

14 Baby sitting is definatly the wrong kind of job for me.

SCORE POINT 1

- 15
- I am not very patient with children
 - I have had baby sitting jobs before and have found out that I don't enjoy it.
 - I'm not ready to take on all that responsibility.

SCORE POINT 1

16 Baby sitting isn't the job for me.

SCORE POINT 6

17 Baby sitting isn't the job for me. I have tried the job in the past and found out first hand that it wasn't something I was going to try in the near future. I have a hard time dealing with kids for a number of different reasons. When I babysat in the past I had to cope with the obstructions that were set in my way. I don't want to have to deal with that again for some time.

I don't have time to babysit on a regular basis. My past job was in the summer, so it didn't conflict with my busy schedule during the school year. During the 10 months I'm in school, I get truckloads of homework that takes a while to do when I focus on it. I also play sports, basketball and track, I play a band instrument, and I have church and youth group on Sundays. I am pretty busy.

I am not good with kids. I think they are cute and adorable, but I don't

work well with them because I am impatient. Young kids tend to test my authority by asking "why?", talking back, or threatening to throw a fit. I counteract that by giving natural consequences like "you can't have that extra cookie," but it takes all of my will power not to scream.

I am not ready to take on all of the responsibilities of being a babysitter. A parent's most valuable possession is their child or their children. They trust babysitters to take care of that valuable treasure. I'm afraid that I'll make a mistake and teach the kids to do something wrong.

I'm worried that I might inadvertently get them into trouble. I can't always remember the rules that the parents have set. If I don't know that little Johnny can't have chocolate after 7:30 pm and he has some, he could get into trouble because I let him have chocolate. It was too much weight put on my shoulders to watch two kids, ages 4 and 5 for 5 hours on Friday

night and 6 hours Saturday after noon.

That experience was a necessary experience. I learned that even though I love little kids, that babysitting for them just isn't my thing. I'm glad I took the job because it helped me shape my career. I know now that being a kindergarten teacher isn't something I want to do! I think I'll stick to stacking firewood, shoveling porches, and raking lawns if I want extra money.

- Purpose is clear throughout; a strong focus/controlling idea OR strongly stated purpose focuses the writing.
- Writing is intentionally organized for effect.
- Fully developed details and rich and/or insightful elaboration support the purpose.
- Distinctive voice, tone, and style enhance meaning.
- Writing shows consistent application of the rules of grade-level grammar, usage, and mechanics.

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SCORE POINT 1

14 That babysitting is not the right job for me.

SCORE POINT 1

15 I don't like to be around younger kids, I can handle kids if they are older like 5 years old. I also don't have a lot of time to babysit.

SCORE POINT 1

16 I have decided that babysitting is not the best job for me.

SCORE POINT 5

17 In reading this essay "IS Babysitting Right for You?" I have found that babysitting may not be the best job for me. The reasons why babysitting isn't the job for me are, I don't like being around or handling really young children. Another reason is that I don't have a lot of time to babysit, and I spend over an hour on homework a night.

The first reason why babysitting would not be the job for me is that I don't like being around, or handling younger kids, like younger than five. In babysitting you really have to like younger kids and I just don't get along with them. I can't stand their crying it drives me nuts. I find that I can handle older kids like five because then we could go outside and run

around and play a game like that. I am a very athletic person I can't stand just sitting there in a room all night. As Carol, and Elizabeth say "Do you like children of all ages?" I don't like children of all ages so it wouldn't be the job for me.

The second reason why babysitting wouldn't be a good job for me is because I don't have that much time for it. I ride horses almost everyday after school, so I have to find time to hang out with my friends too. So I wouldn't be available that often to babysit. Babysitting is often an all night deal. I would have to put aside my riding and I don't want to do that. It's a big part of my life. I make money working at the barn so I also don't really need babysitting.

My last reason why babysitting

wouldn't be the job for me is that I have a lot of homework to do and I usually have at least one hour. If I were to babysit after I rode then there would be no time to do my homework and my grades would drop. Keeping up with my homework is more important than money right now.

In conclusion I have decided that babysitting is not the job for me. The reasons are I don't like to be around or handle young children, I don't have a lot of time, and last I wouldn't have time to do my homework.

- Purpose is clear; a focus/controlling idea is maintained throughout.
- Writing is well-organized and coherent throughout.
- Details are relevant and support the purpose; details are sufficiently elaborated.
- Writing shows strong command of sentence structure and uses language to enhance meaning.
- Writing shows consistent application of the rules of grade-level grammar, usage, and mechanics.

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SCORE POINT 1

14 The focus idea is whether babysitting is the right job for me

SCORE POINT 1

15 The supporting details are whether I work well with young children and what I want to be when I mature.

SCORE POINT 1

16 The end will state whether I think I want to be a baby sitter or not.

SCORE POINT 4

17 I don't know whether babysitting is the right job for me. I usually cooperate well with children from ages 5 to age 10 but anything younger than that usually starts to annoy me after a while. I could not take the crying and the diapers and the constant attention at least with 5 year olds you can send them to get something and they can get it without having somebody accompany them. Looking to my future, I found nothing that would have to do with kids under my job selection so babysitting wouldn't benefit my future much (except for the money). I have time to babysit but most of that time I use talking to my

friends. So if I chose to use that time to babysit then all my friends would think that I'm ignoring them and soon I would have no friends. I have the time to babysit and do my school-work, but I probably wouldn't be able to do it as well as I do now. So since the final conclusion came down to about 3 out of 4 reasons not to babysit than I think that babysitting is not for me.

- Purpose is evident; a focus/controlling idea may not be maintained.
- Writing is generally organized and coherent.
- Details are relevant and mostly support the purpose.
- Writing contains well-constructed sentences and uses language well.
- Writing may show inconsistent control of grade-level grammar, usage, and mechanics.

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SCORE POINT 1

14 Is babysitting the right job
for me.

SCORE POINT 1

15 I like little kids of all
ages. I can work flexible hours
because I mostly get my
homework done in study hall.

SCORE POINT 1

16 I think babysitting is the
right job for me.

SCORE POINT 3

17 Is babysitting the right job for me?
Yes! I think it is. I have lots of
time to babysit, and I love kids of
all ages.

I like kids of all ages so I could
work with just about every one. I could
work flexible hours because, I get most
of my homework done in study hall or
when I get home. I can go for
however much you can pay me even if
it's not that much I just love
kids. I can change diapers even if they
are gross I'm prepared. I could play
outside with the kid/kids. I can
babysit more than two kids.

So with all that I think babysitting
is the right job for me. I can have fun
doing my job. Also it doesn't matter
how many kids there are, like I said
I love kids. Plus it would be a great

NECAP 2005 RELEASED ITEMS
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way to spend my days, because I wouldn't watch that much T.V. or I have no time for that matter. So that is why I think babysitting is the right job for me.

- Writing has a general purpose.
- Writing has some sense of organization but may have lapses in coherence.
- Some relevant details support the purpose.
- Writing uses language adequately but may show little variety of sentence structures.
- Writing may contain some serious errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics.

NECAP 2005 RELEASED ITEMS
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SCORE POINT 1

14 I can't babysit because I have other after school activities.

SCORE POINT 1

15 I have Drama, guitar, I need to work on homework, I need to take care of three dogs, I clean my room, I do dishes and I do laundry.

SCORE POINT 1

16 I don't have enough time.

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SCORE POINT 2

17 I cannot babysit because I haven't got the time. On Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, I have Drama from 3:10 pm. to 5:00pm, and I get home at 6:00pm. On top of that, I have my homework and my dogs to take care of. On Thursdays, I get home at 4:00pm, but I leave at 5:45pm for guitar lessons. I get back home at 6:45 pm. On week-ends, I have to clean my room, do some laundry and a few loads of dishes, take care of my three dogs, study for school and drama, and practice my guitar. I don't have enough time to dedicate to baby-sitting.

- Writing has an attempted or vague purpose but stays on topic.
- Writing has little evidence of organization; there are lapses in coherence.
- Writing generalizes or lists details.
- Writing lacks sentence control and uses language poorly.
- Errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics are distracting.

NECAP 2005 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 8 WRITING

SCORE POINT 1

14 The focus and Controlling Point is if
babysitting is right for you.

SCORE POINT 1

15 The details and text are asking you
if you like children and more
are time to babysit.

SCORE POINT 1

16 If you are the material to
become a babysiter

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SCORE POINT 1

17 Yes babysitting is the right job for me because I like children and have the passions for kids. And the ?'s they ask are very good on like a survey to woulder if you like children.

- There is a lack of evident purpose; topic may not be clear.
- Writing has incoherent or underdeveloped organization.
- Writing contains random information.
- Writing shows rudimentary or deficient use of language.
- Writing has serious and persistent errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics throughout.

NECAP 2005 RELEASED ITEMS
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SCORE POINT 0

14 Babysitting is a great way to earn money. It's one of the few jobs that is always available.

SCORE POINT 0

15 And don't forget that you have your own social life. You won't have much time for your friends if you take on babysitting jobs every afternoon and evening.

SCORE POINT 0

16 Read this passage to decide if babysitting is the right job for you. Then write a response to the

SCORE POINT 0

17 And don't forget that you have your own social life. You won't have much time for your friends if you take on babysitting jobs every afternoon and evening. Babysitting is a great way to earn money. It's one of the few jobs that is always available.
Read this passage to decide if babysitting is the right job for you. Then write a response to the

Planning boxes and student response are a direct copy from the passage and contain no original student response.