

**NEVADA STATE WRITING PROFICIENCY EXAMINATION
ANALYTIC SCORING GUIDE***

VOICE

5: The writer speaks directly to the reader in a way that is individualistic, expressive, and engaging. Clearly, the writer is involved in the text, and the writing is writing to be read.

- The writing is appropriate to purpose and audience.
- The paper is honest. It has the ring of conviction.
- The word choice brings the topic to life and clarifies the writer's attitude towards the subject.
- The writer establishes a strong connection with the reader and clearly convinces the reader of the writer's commitment to the topic.

3: The writer seems sincere, but not genuinely engaged, committed, or involved. The result is earnest, but short of compelling.

- The writer seems aware of an audience but stands at a distance to avoid risk.
- The writing communicates in an earnest manner and may occasionally interest or move the reader.
- The word choice reveals the writer's attitude toward the topic in some places but may become general, vague, tentative, or abstract in other places.
- The writer establishes a connection with the reader and demonstrates some commitment to the topic; however, the writing hides as much of the writer as it reveals.

1: The writer seems indifferent, uninvolved, or distanced from the topic and/or the audience. As a result, the writing is flat, lifeless, or mechanical. More than one of the following problems is likely to be evident:

- The writer does not connect with the audience or have a sense of purpose.
- The writing communicates on a functional level. There is no presence of the writer on the page.
- The word choice tends to flatten all potential highs and lows of the message.
- The writer is not yet sufficiently engaged to take risks or make a commitment to the topic.

*The Nevada State Department of Education gratefully acknowledges Vicki Spandel, the teachers of Oregon, and the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory who developed and revised the original trait scoring guides, as well as Nevada teachers who have contributed to the final revisions.