
A LARGE-SCALE ASSESSMENT MODEL THAT WORKS: THE ALBERTA EXPERIENCE

Elana Scraba, Alberta Ministry of Education

The presentation outlined the principles used in Alberta for developing written response tests and examinations in English and French Language Arts and Social Studies (Grades 3, 6, 9, 12). The discussion focused on principles and procedures that are used for scoring the written work of large numbers of students. This included a

description of procedures for setting standards, training markers, ensuring consistent and reliable scoring.

We reviewed the model used for framing scoring descriptors and such long-standing issues as evaluating personal responses and the effects of exam situations on students' work. The presentation concluded with a discussion of what we have learned about students' writing and what our observations suggest for classroom and for research.