Essential Education

Learning Made CERTAIN

Bigger Better Writing:

Using Rubrics & Samples to Improve Scores & Instruction

Dr. Carmine Stewart
Instructional Designer

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Instructional Designer

Bigger Better Writing

By the end of this session, you will:

1. Identify scoring for adult education assessments
2. Grade samples using rubrics
3. Enhance instruction using feedback from rubrics
4. Leave with realistic samples and practical resources for classroom use

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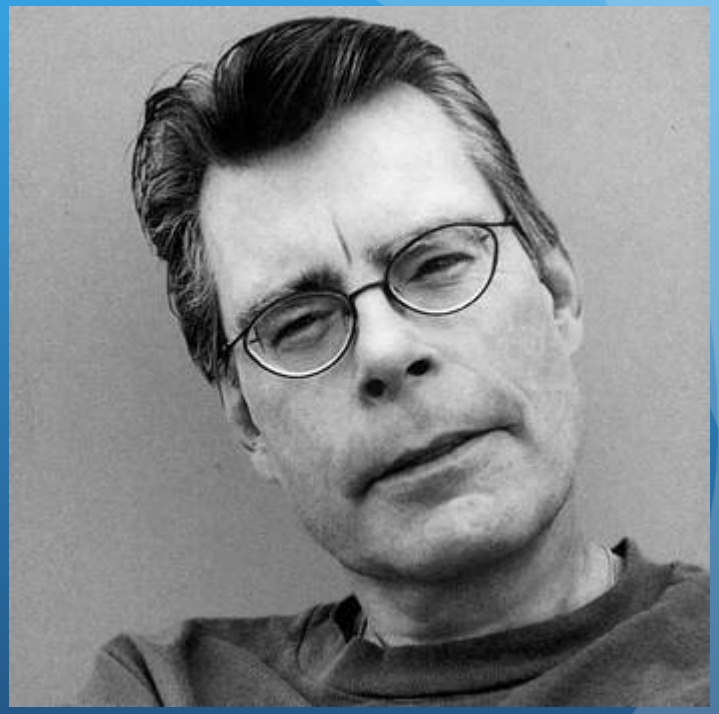
"Amateurs sit and wait for inspiration, the rest of us just get up and go to work."

Stephen King
On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft



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HSE Assessment Scoring Guide

GED

- 6-point RLA Extended Response
- 2 Short Answers in Science

TASC

- 4-point Essay*
- Short Answer in Language, SS, & Math

HiSET

- 6-point Essay*

*Passing holistic score required to pass exam.

Still fuzzy?

Rubrics for Clarity

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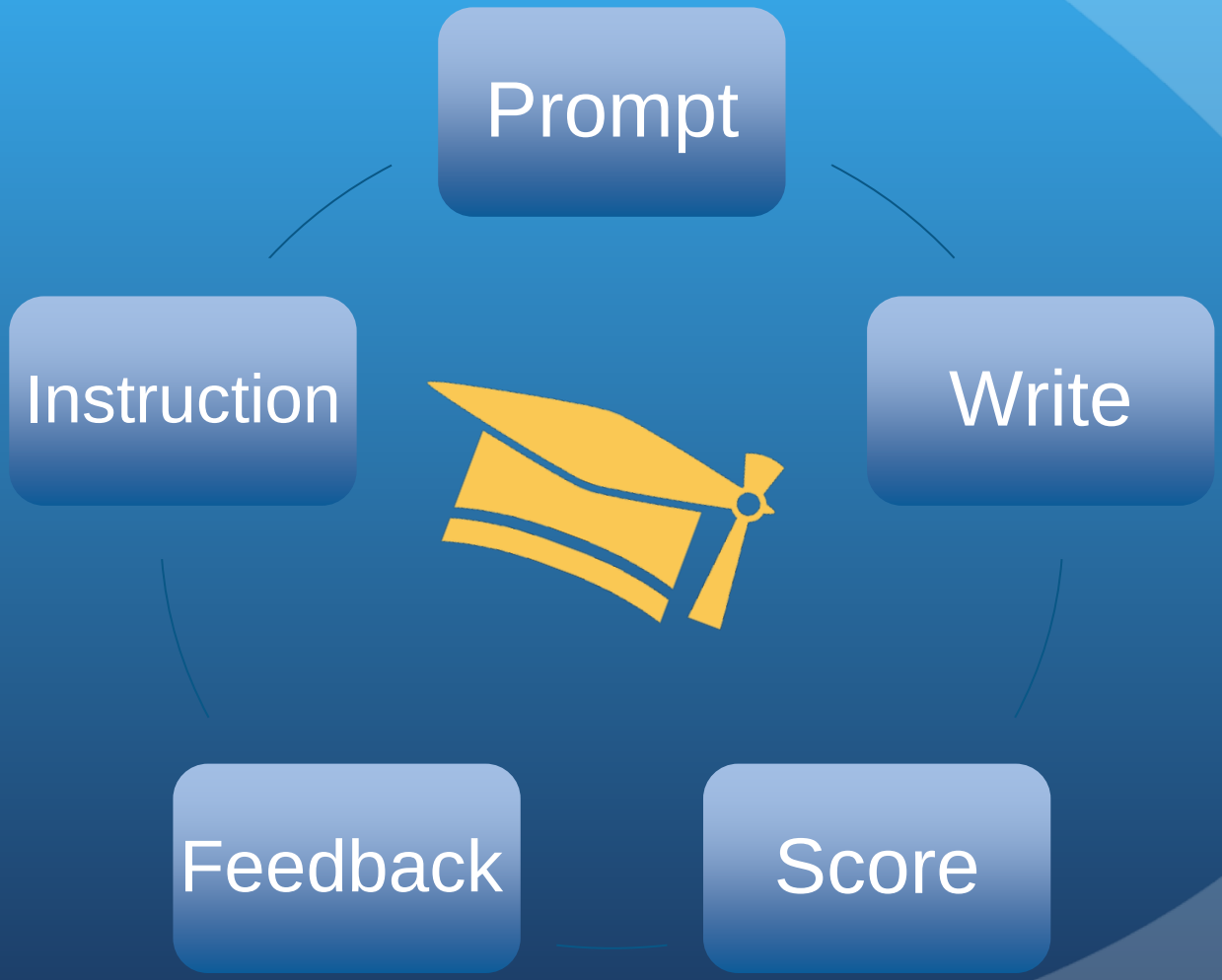
Why Rubrics? Mastery Learning



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FREE Prompts & Writing Samples

TASC Practice Items

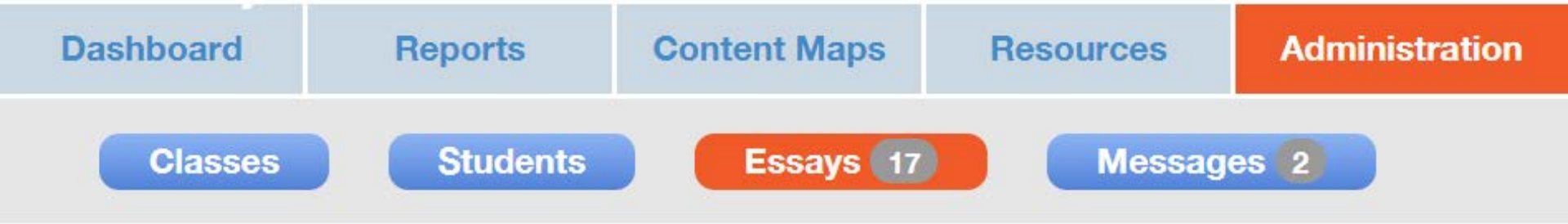
Prepare for the HiSET Exam

GED Testing Service Constructed Response Tools

Fill Out a Form

to sign up for our FREE online Practice Test trials

Score: View or Grade



View & Grade	GED Science Practice Test 3 v2015.06	Earth and Space Science SP.3.a	Dan Griffith	10/16/2015 12:43 pm
View & Grade	Writing TASC Essay Test 1	TASC College Sports Unionization Prompt	Becca Johnston	10/16/2015 11:00 am
View & Grade	Writing HiSET Essay Test 4	HiSET Time Management Prompt	Sharon Curtis	9/28/2015 2:01 pm

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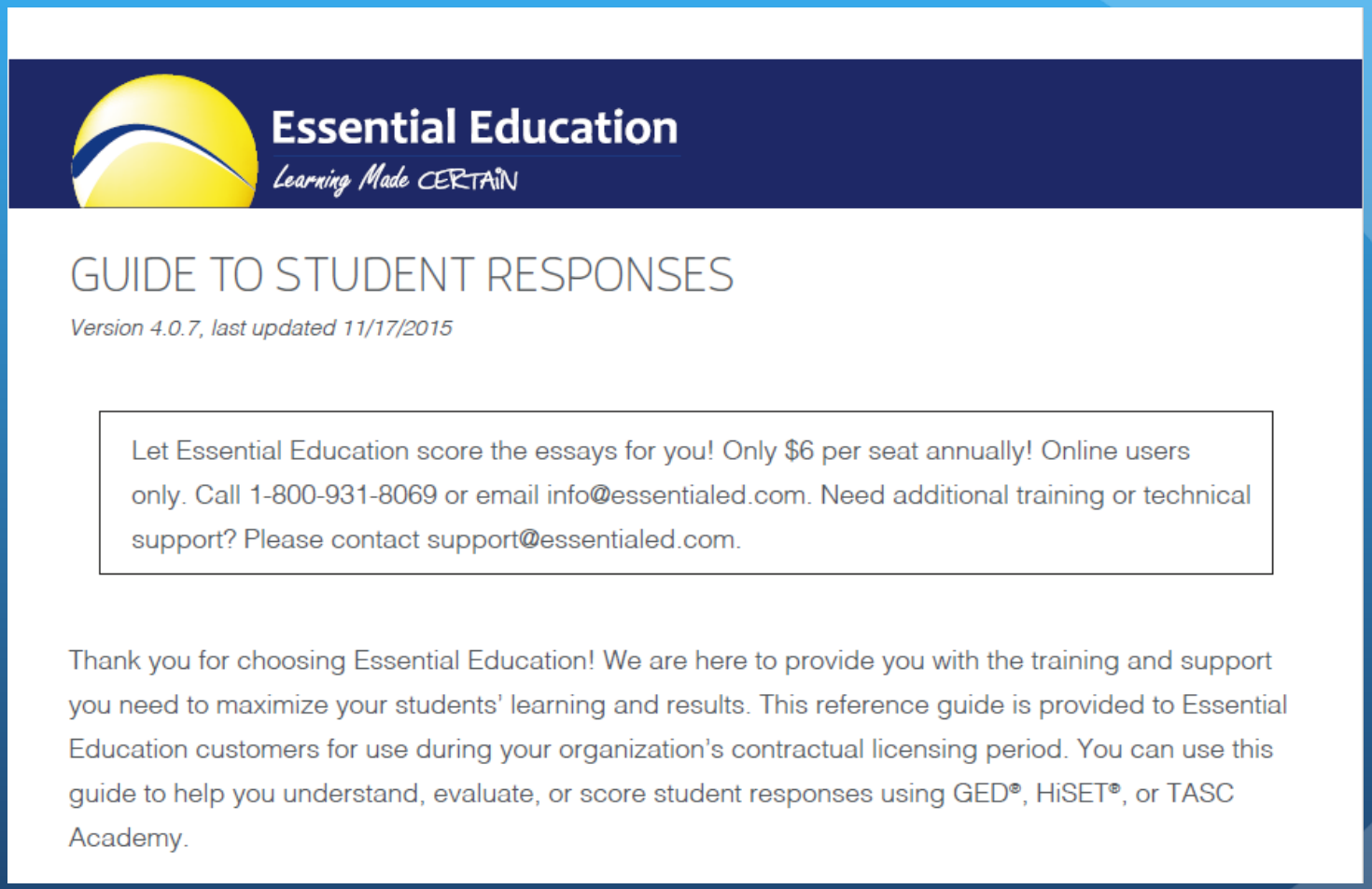
Use Our FREE Scoring Guide!



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GUIDE TO STUDENT RESPONSES

Version 4.0.7, last updated 11/17/2015

Let Essential Education score the essays for you! Only $6 per seat annually! Online users only. Call 1-800-931-8069 or email info@essentialed.com. Need additional training or technical support? Please contact support@essentialed.com.

Thank you for choosing Essential Education! We are here to provide you with the training and support you need to maximize your students' learning and results. This reference guide is provided to Essential Education customers for use during your organization's contractual licensing period. You can use this guide to help you understand, evaluate, or score student responses using GED®, HiSET®, or TASC Academy.

Instruction: FREE Videos

Leonard Writes an Extended Response

0:04 / 25:03

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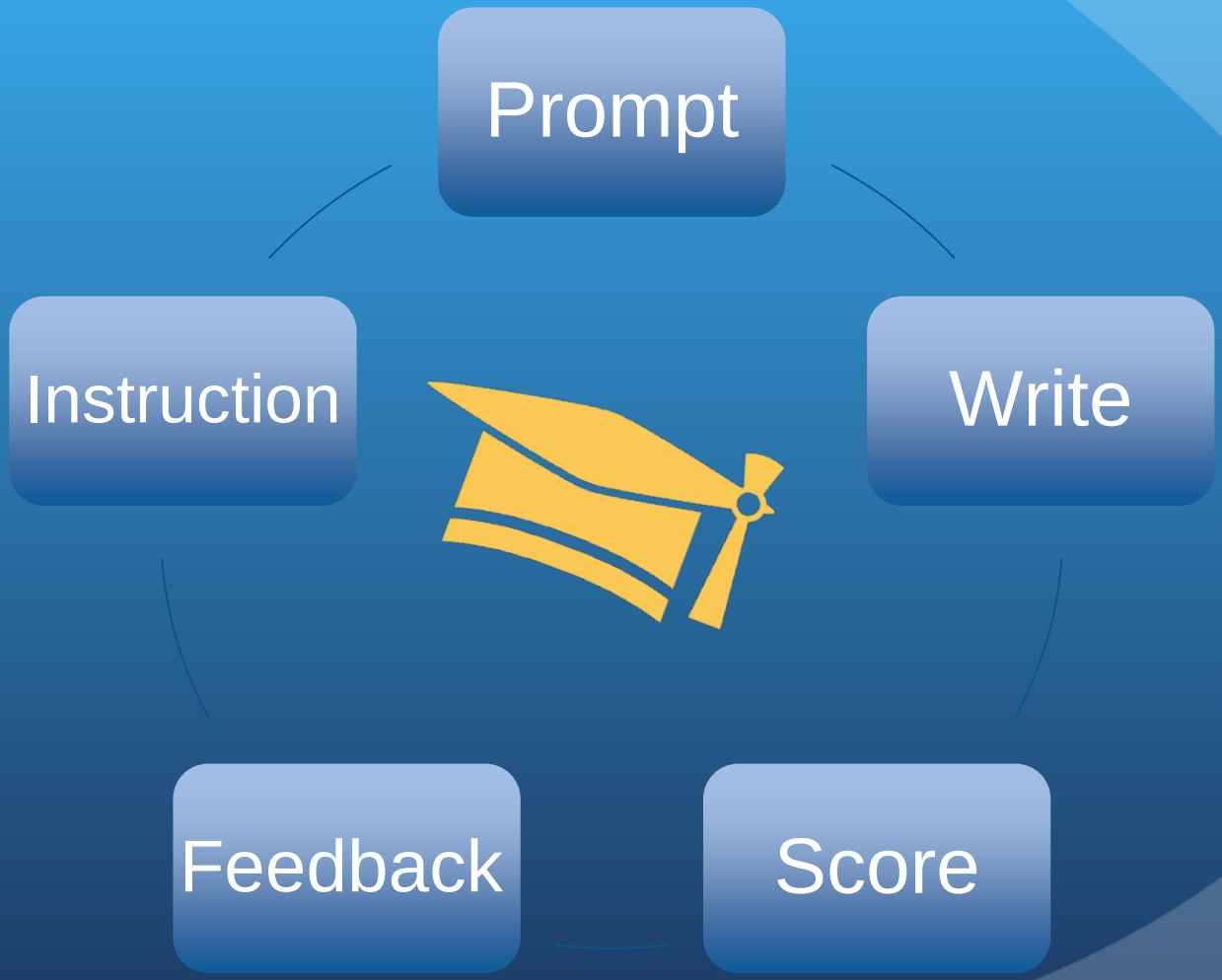
Master Writing with Rubrics



Your Turn to

Read the Prompt!

Feedback: Language & Mechanics

Dimension 5: Language Facility

Part 1: Do you choose effective and appropriate words to convey your meaning?

- ☐ Your word choice is effective and appropriate.
- ☐ Your response contained informal language or slang phrases. Try to avoid these.
- ☐ Your word choice is simplistic or repetitive. Focus on expanding your vocabulary.
- ☐ You occasionally use words incorrectly.
- ☐ You often use words incorrectly, making your writing difficult to understand.

Part 2: How well does your response use correct phrasing, clauses, and sentence structure?

- ☐ The response flows smoothly. You include clear transitions and a variety of sentence structures.
- ☐ You use clear transitions, and the response flows well in places.
- ☐ There are some awkward sentence structures that make understanding more difficult.
- ☐ Focus on your transitions. Carefully choose words and phrases that make logical connections between ideas.
- ☐ Avoid wordiness in your writing.
- ☐ Try to avoid run-on sentences and fragments. Each sentence needs a subject, verb, and complete thought.

Your Turn to **Score!**

Find a partner or two!

- Each person should have samples + rubric
- Read & note on your paper:
  - How would you grade each sample ***overall***?
  - What feedback would you give for ***language & word choice***?
  - What ***instructional activities*** might help this student improve?

- When done, discuss with your partner(s)

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Informing Instruction

Engaging learners with fun, relevant activities

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Feedback Informs Instruction

Creation of Arguments

Use of Evidence

Development of Ideas

Organization

Language & Word Choice

Writing Conventions

"Almost all good writing begins with terrible first efforts. You need to start somewhere."

Anne Lamott, *Bird by Bird*

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Then visit us at the Essential Education Booth for a **special offer**!

Dr. Carmine Stewart

Meagen Farrell

THANK YOU!