



Validation of ESL Writing Test

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Laney College – T401

1:00 p.m. – 2:30p.m.

Attendees:

[Carlos Cortez](#); [Laurie Brion](#); [Suzan Tiemroth-Zavala](#); [Gabrielle Winer](#); [Anne Agard](#); [Linda Sanford](#); [Eun Rhee](#); [Gabrielle Winer](#); [Blanca Montes de Oca](#)

Agenda:

1. Introductions
2. Additional agenda items?
3. Background
4. Accreditation
5. Report requirements
 - a. Review of prompts for bias
 - b. Review of scoring rubric for alignment with course levels
 - c. Inter-rater reliability
 - d. Disproportionate impact
6. Decision to validate prompts as-is
7. Faculty leadership and tasks
8. Timeline
9. Review of survey questions

Summary:

Faculty members expressed the need to revise the prompts based on asymmetries among the current questions (some ask for simple definitions, such as “What is a good friend?”; others are more complex, involving comparisons). It was decided that all questions should be of similar complexity and involve comparisons.

Linda Sanford underscored the difficulty that would be posed to accreditation efforts by continuing to use instruments not validated and approved by the state. However, if a specific plan is implemented which results in the new prompts being validated by faculty, and used for the fall placement process, then this would be sufficient for meeting standard II 3 b.

Faculty agreed to carry out drafting alternative prompts, identifying summer ESL classes to test the prompts with, and revise them, if necessary, based on analysis of the sample.

Timeline:

Action	Date(s)
Drafting and review new prompts, asking for feedback from all available ESL <i>and</i> DSPS faculty on or before June 11	May 29 – June 11
ESL students take writing prompts first day of summer session	June 16
Review of writing samples to assess relative difficulty and check for cultural/gender/age bias. Drafting of new scoring and placement rubric aligned with new ESL curriculum sequence.	June 19 – July 14
Make new prompts available to assessment centers	July 14
Communication to testing centers, counselors and college admin regarding implementation of new test from Ed Srvcs and/or A&R.	June 25, July 23
Write-up report and submit to CCCCO Assessment Workgroup	Sept - Oct
Survey students and faculty regarding accuracy of placement	Mid to late fall 14 term

The four faculty member present agreed to begin drafting new prompts that afternoon, and to get together again to analyze writing samples. Suzanne will coordinate by setting up google docs for use in reviewing prompts, selecting sections, and collecting feedback from ESL faculty. District Institutional Research will provide any lists needed and initiate communication to come from ES/A&R.