

# Condition Codes for the ELA Writing Extended Response



The performance task for English language arts/literacy (ELA) includes a Writing Extended Response (WER) item—also referred to as the full-write or essay question—that requires students to synthesize information from multiple sources to produce one extended written response.

The WER is scored for three traits of writing: Organization/Purpose; Evidence/Elaboration; and Conventions. These items (i.e., questions) are scored using rubrics, and raters assign a score based on each trait.

WER scores are available to students and families on the Student Score Report, educators on the California Educator Reporting System (CERS) Individual Student Report, as well as local educational agency (LEA) coordinators in the Student Score Data File. If a student receives a score of zero on a trait, it will be accompanied by a condition code identifying the reason for the score of zero.

## Condition Codes and Categories

# B

### Blank

No Response

# I

### Insufficient

If a student has not provided a meaningful response, they will receive a WER condition code of **Insufficient**. This condition code is used if the student’s original work is insufficient for the rater to make a determination as defined in the rubrics, or the response is too brief. An Insufficient may also be applied if the essay contains a significant amount of copied text, preventing the rater from making a determination as defined in the rubric.

An insufficient response may consist of the following:

- Random keystrokes or undecipherable text
- “I don’t know, IDK”
- “I like pizza!”  
(in response to a reading passage about helicopters)

**L**  
**Nonscorable  
Language**

To maintain the construct of the assessment, constructed response items on the ELA assessment must receive a response in English to be scored. If a response is received in a language other than English, the item will receive a condition code of **Nonscorable Language**.

**T**  
**Off-Topic**

If a student provides a response that is unrelated to the task, or sources, or shows no evidence that the student has read the task, or the sources, they will receive a condition code of **Off-Topic**.

**M**  
**Off-Purpose**

If a student has clearly not written to the purpose designated in the task, they will receive a condition code of **Off-Purpose**.  
Off-purpose responses address the topic of the task but not the purpose of the task.

**Field Test  
Essay**

Before a question can be added to the test, it must first be field tested to confirm that it is a valid and reliable question. A small subgroup of students receive embedded field test performance tasks. Field test questions help improve future tests and do not contribute to a student's score.

