

Preparing for The Assessment Center

A decorative graphic consisting of a solid red horizontal bar that transitions into a series of white horizontal lines of varying lengths and thicknesses on the right side.

Resources

National Board Resource Center at Illinois State University

- <http://nbrc.illinoisstate.edu/candidates/AssessmentCenterPodcastsandScripts.shtml>

National Board for Professional Teaching Standards

- http://www.nbpts.org/for_candidates/assessment/prepare_for_your_appoint
- http://www.nbpts.org/for_candidates/assessment_center
- <http://www.nbpts.org/tutorial>

Wisconsin Education Association Council

- http://www.weac.org/Professional_Resources/certification/index/NBPTS_Resources.aspx

What Is the Assessment Center?

The Assessment Center component of the National Board Certification process consists of six computer-delivered exercises, each of which must be completed within 30 minutes.

The exercises are designed to test your content knowledge specified in the NBPTS Standards for your certificate area.

Assumptions

- You have reviewed the *Assessment Center Policy and Guidelines*.

http://www.nbpts.org/userfiles/file/ACPG_2011_web.pdf

- The guidelines are an important study aid available to candidates preparing for the Assessment Center.
- You understand the connection between NBPTS's 5 Core Propositions, Standards for your certificate area, and the Architecture of Accomplished Teaching.

When Should You Schedule?

- When it is convenient—choose and confirm a date as soon as possible. This helps set a target for your preparation.
- There is no advantage in waiting until your portfolio is completed. Some teachers prefer completing the AC exercises before the portfolio is due.

http://www.nbpts.org/for_candidates/assessment_center/scheduling_an_appointment

Review Scoring Guide

For additional information you should also read the [Scoring Guide](#) for your selected certificate.

http://www.nbpts.org/for_candidates/scoring

These guides contain the rubrics that are used to score assessment center exercises and two retired prompts in your certificate area.

Should You Study?

- National Board's standards support staying current in disciplinary knowledge, so professional reading for the Assessment Center tests **fits** with this idea of continuous growth in your practice.
- Content review will be helpful for some of your Assessment Center exercises.

What Should You Study?

- Textbook chapters (including student texts and teacher's manuals)
- Web resources (including content discipline associations' websites), professional development books, and journals, etc.
- Resources recommended by colleagues—often these are “tried and true”

The Assessment Center Exercises

- May consist of one or more prompts or questions designed to elicit evidence of content knowledge
- A scenario or student profile may be presented for consideration before responding to a set of prompts.

The Assessment Center Exercises

- Cover the entire developmental age range included in the certificate – You are expected to demonstrate knowledge of appropriate content across the full range.
- Can focus on any number of things related to the content knowledge outlined in the standards for a given certificate area

The Assessment Center Exercises

- May ask for a specific number of examples as part of the response. Candidates should only submit the number requested because assessors are trained to evaluate this number.

Assessors look for depth and quality, not quantity.

Assessment Exercise Writing

ON DEMAND WRITING

- **Read each descriptor carefully** – scroll down to read all parts to this exercise
- Respond appropriately and focus on **all of the questions**

Assessment Exercise Writing

- You do not need to write an essay – you may make bulleted lists (use * or >)
- Don't go off on tangents – stay focused
- Quickly identify what is asked
- Think rapidly about your ideas and how to organize them
- Write concisely

Assessors look for depth and quality, not quantity.

Use the NBPTS Online Tutorial

Locate the tutorial.

<http://www.nbpts.org/tutorial>

- Introduction
- Testing Tools
- Taking the Test
- Post-test

Test Simulation Link

**“Welcome to my unofficial National Board
Assessment Center Simulation...”**

http://edtechbytes.com/?page_id=5

Tips

- Practice your typing skills. You have 30 minutes to write your answers to each exercise.
- Read all parts of each exercise before you start typing so you know what is expected in the exercise.
- A clock on your computer screen will keep you aware of your time – the clock never stops!

Tips

- The sample test items are just that. . . there are specific questions that are quite different than those on the actual test.
- Make sure that you cover all of the area and age groups that you are applying for in the test. . . . if you don't teach that age group, talk to others who do to get ideas from them about activities, characteristics of that age and what works and what doesn't.

Tips

- Prepare a study sheet for each exercise
- Research what is current in your certificate area
- Review your standards – this is what accomplished teaching looks like in your area
- It helps to prepare, especially in areas where you feel you may need shoring up

Tips

- **Remember:** Each exercise is worth only a small percentage of your score. One weak AC exercise score is not fatal. If you encounter something difficult, don't let it derail you.
- Preparing for the Assessment Center can actually be a great content review, and lead to a sense of better preparation for teaching, as well as new ideas for instruction.