edTPA stems from a twenty-five-year history of developing performance-based assessments of teaching quality and effectiveness. The Teacher Performance Assessment Consortium (Stanford and AACTE) acknowledges the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, the Interstate Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium, and the Performance Assessment for California Teachers for their pioneering work using discipline-specific portfolio assessments to evaluate teaching quality. This version of the handbook has been developed with thoughtful input from over six hundred teachers and teacher educators representing various national design teams, national subject matter organizations (AAHPERD, ACEI, ACTFL, AMLE, CEC, IRA, NAEYC, NAGC, NCSS, NCTE, NCTM, NSTA), and content validation reviewers. All contributions are recognized and appreciated.

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Introduction to edTPA Elementary Literacy

Purpose

The purpose of edTPA Elementary Literacy, a nationally available performance-based assessment, is to measure novice teachers’ readiness to teach elementary literacy. The assessment is designed with a focus on student learning and principles from research and theory. It is based on findings that successful teachers

- develop knowledge of subject matter, content standards, and subject-specific pedagogy
- develop and apply knowledge of varied students’ needs
- consider research and theory about how students learn
- reflect on and analyze evidence of the effects of instruction on student learning

As a performance-based assessment, edTPA is designed to engage candidates in demonstrating their understanding of teaching and student learning in authentic ways.

Overview of the Assessment

The edTPA Elementary Literacy assessment is composed of three tasks:

1. Planning for Instruction and Assessment
2. Instructing and Engaging Students in Learning
3. Assessing Student Learning

For this assessment, you will first plan 3–5 consecutive literacy lessons (or, if teaching within a large time block, 3–5 hours of connected instruction) referred to as a learning segment. Consistent with the Common Core State Standards for English-Language Arts and Literacy¹ and recommendations provided by the International Reading Association² (2010) for literacy professionals, a learning segment prepared for this assessment should reflect a balanced literacy curriculum. This means your learning segment should include learning tasks in which students have opportunities to develop an essential strategy for comprehending or composing text and the requisite skills that directly support that strategy.

You will then teach the learning segment, making a videorecording of your interactions with students during instruction. You will also assess, informally and formally, students’ learning throughout the learning segment. Upon completion of the three tasks, you will submit

¹ The Common Core State Standards for English-Language Arts (June 2010) can be found at http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy.
² The Standards for Reading Professionals can be found at http://www.reading.org/General/CurrentResearch/Standards/ProfessionalStandards2010.aspx
artifacts from the tasks (e.g., lesson plans, clips from your videorecording, assessment materials, instructional materials, student work samples), as well as commentaries that you have written to explain and reflect on the Planning, Instruction, and Assessment components of the tasks. The artifacts and commentaries for each task will then be evaluated using rubrics especially developed for each task.

The edTPA Tasks and the Cycle of Effective Teaching

The three edTPA tasks represent a cycle of effective teaching (i.e., teaching that is focused on student learning). The Planning task documents your intended teaching, the Instruction task documents your enacted teaching, and the Assessment task documents the impact of your teaching on student learning.

Evidence of Teaching Practice: Artifacts and Commentaries

An essential part of edTPA is the evidence you will submit of how you planned, taught, and assessed your lessons to deepen student learning in literacy. This evidence includes both artifacts and commentaries:

- **Artifacts** represent authentic work completed by you and your students. These include lesson plans, copies of instructional and assessment materials, video clips of your teaching, and student work samples.
Commentaries are your opportunity to describe your artifacts, explain the rationale behind their choice, and analyze what you have learned about your teaching practice and your students’ learning. Note that although your writing ability will not be scored directly, commentaries must be clearly written and well-focused.

When preparing your artifacts and commentaries, refer to the rubrics frequently to guide your thinking, planning, and writing. Refer to the Elementary Literacy Evidence Chart for information about how your evidence should be formatted for electronic submission.

Evaluation Criteria

The evidence (i.e., artifacts and commentaries) you submit will be judged on five components of teaching practice:

1. Planning
2. Instruction
3. Assessment
4. Analyzing Teaching
5. Academic Language

You will provide evidence for the Planning, Instruction, and Assessment components within the corresponding tasks. You will provide evidence for the Analyzing Teaching component across all three tasks. You will provide evidence for the Academic Language component in the Planning task, as well as in the Instruction AND/OR Assessment tasks.

The rubrics used to score your performance are included in this handbook, following the sections describing the directions for each task. The descriptors in the five-level rubrics address a wide range of performance, beginning with the knowledge and skills of a novice not ready to teach (Level 1) and extending to the advanced practices of a highly accomplished beginner (Level 5).

Structure of the Handbook

The following pages provide specific instructions on how to complete each of the three tasks of the edTPA Elementary Literacy assessment. After an overview of the tasks, the handbook provides instructions for each task organized into four sections:

1. What Do I Need to Think About?
   This section provides focus questions for you to think about when completing the task.

2. What Do I Need to Do?
   This section provides specific, detailed directions for completing the task.

3. What Do I Need to Write?
   This section tells you what you need to write and also provides specific and detailed directions for writing the commentary for the task.

4. How Will the Evidence of My Teaching Practice Be Assessed?
   This section includes the rubrics that will be used to assess the evidence you provide for the task.
Additional requirements and resources are provided for you in this handbook.

- **Professional Responsibilities**: guidelines for the development of your evidence
- **Elementary Literacy Context for Learning Information**: prompts used to collect information about your school/classroom context
- **Elementary Literacy Evidence Chart**: specifications for electronic submission of evidence (artifacts and commentaries), including templates, supported file types, number of files, response length, and other important evidence specifications
- **Glossary**: definitions of key terms can be accessed by rolling your cursor over each glossary term marked with a dotted underline throughout the handbook or by referring to the [Elementary Literacy Glossary](#).

Your preparation program will have additional resources that provide guidance as you develop your evidence. In particular, you should review the [Making Good Choices](#) document prior to beginning the planning of the learning segment.

Review all instructions carefully before beginning to teach the learning segment to ensure that you are well prepared for all tasks. Refer to the [Making Good Choices](#) document to help you prepare for all tasks. Refer to the [Professional Responsibilities](#) section of this handbook for important information about permissions, confidentiality, and other requirements.

If your program requires you to submit artifacts and commentaries for official scoring, refer to [www.edTPA.com](http://www.edTPA.com) for complete and current information before beginning your work and to download templates for submitting materials. The website contains information about the registration process, submission deadlines, submission requirements, withdrawal/refund policies, and score reporting. It also provides contact information should you have questions about your registration and participation in edTPA.

Whether submitting directly to [www.edTPA.com](http://www.edTPA.com) or via your program’s electronic portfolio management system, follow the submission guidelines as documented in the Evidence Chart and review [edTPA Submission Requirements](#) to ensure that your materials conform to the required evidence specifications and requirements for scoring.
edTPA Elementary Literacy Tasks Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task 1: Planning for Instruction and Assessment</th>
<th>What to Do</th>
<th>What to Submit</th>
<th>Evaluation Rubrics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What to Do</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Planning Rubrics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>► Select one class as a focus for this</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rubric 1: Planning for Literacy Learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>assessment.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rubric 2: Planning to Support Varied Student Learning Needs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>► Provide relevant context information.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rubric 3: Using Knowledge of Students to Inform Teaching and Learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>► Identify a learning segment to plan,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rubric 4: Identifying and Supporting Language Demands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>teach, and analyze student learning. Your</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rubric 5: Planning Assessments to Monitor and Support Student Learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>learning segment should include 3–5</td>
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<td>consecutive lessons (or, if teaching</td>
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<tr>
<td>literacy within a large time block, about 3–</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 hours of connected instruction).</td>
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<tr>
<td>► Determine a central focus for your</td>
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<td>learning segment. The central focus</td>
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<td>should support students to develop an</td>
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<td>essential strategy for comprehending or</td>
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<td>composing text and requisite skills that</td>
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<td>directly support that strategy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>► Write and submit a lesson plan for each</td>
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<tr>
<td>lesson in the learning segment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>► Select and submit key instructional</td>
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<td>materials needed to understand what you</td>
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<tr>
<td>and the students will be doing.</td>
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<tr>
<td>► Respond to commentary prompts prior to</td>
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<tr>
<td>teaching the learning segment.</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>► As part of the commentary, choose one</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>language function to analyze elementary</td>
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<tr>
<td>literacy language demands and identify a</td>
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<td>learning task where students use that</td>
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<tr>
<td>language function. Identify both the</td>
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<td>language that students will be expected to</td>
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<td>use to engage in the learning task and your</td>
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<tr>
<td>instructional supports for that language.</td>
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<tr>
<td>► Submit copies of directions for all</td>
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<tr>
<td>planned assessments from the learning</td>
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<tr>
<td>segment.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Task 2: Instructing and Engaging Students in Learning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What to Do</th>
<th>What to Submit</th>
<th>Evaluation Rubrics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>► Obtain required permissions for videorecording from parents/guardians of your students and other adults appearing in the video.</td>
<td>Part A: Video Clips</td>
<td>Instruction Rubrics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>► Identify lessons from the learning segment you planned in Task 1 to videorecord. You should choose lessons that show you interacting with students to support them to independently apply the literacy strategy and requisite skills to comprehend or compose text in meaningful contexts.</td>
<td>Part B: Instruction Commentary</td>
<td>Rubric 6: Learning Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>► Videorecord your teaching and select 1 or 2 video clips (no more than 15 minutes total).</td>
<td></td>
<td>Rubric 7: Engaging Students in Learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>► Analyze your teaching and your students’ learning in the video clips by responding to commentary prompts.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Rubric 8: Deepening Student Learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rubric 9: Subject-Specific Pedagogy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rubric 10: Analyzing Teaching Effectiveness</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Task 3: Assessing Student Learning

### What to Do

- Select one assessment from the learning segment that you will use to evaluate your students’ developing knowledge and skills. Attach the assessment used to evaluate student performance to the end of the Assessment Commentary.
- Define and submit the evaluation criteria you will use to analyze student learning.
- Collect and analyze student work from the selected assessment to identify quantitative and qualitative patterns of learning within and across learners in the class.
- Select 3 student work samples to illustrate your analysis of patterns of learning within and across learners in the class. At least 1 of the samples must be from a student with specific learning needs. These 3 students will be your focus students.
- Summarize the learning of the whole class, referring to work samples from the 3 focus students to illustrate patterns in student understanding across the class.
- Submit feedback for the work samples for the 3 focus students in written, audio, or video form.
- Analyze evidence of students’ language use from (1) the video clips from the Instruction task, (2) an additional video clip of one or more students using language within the learning segment, AND/OR (3) the student work samples from the Assessment task.
- Analyze evidence of student learning and plan for next steps by responding to commentary prompts.

### What to Submit

- Part A: Student Work Samples
- Part B: Evidence of Feedback
- Part C: Assessment Commentary
- Part D: Evaluation Criteria

### Evaluation Rubrics

- **Assessment Rubrics**
  - Rubric 11: Analysis of Student Learning
  - Rubric 12: Providing Feedback to Guide Further Learning
  - Rubric 13: Student Use of Feedback
  - Rubric 14: Analyzing Students’ Language Use and Literacy Learning
  - Rubric 15: Using Assessment to Inform Instruction
Task 1: Planning for Instruction and Assessment

What Do I Need to Think About?

In Task 1: Planning for Instruction and Assessment, you will describe your plans for the learning segment and explain how your instruction is appropriate for the students and the content you are teaching. As you develop your plans, you need to think about the following:

- What do your students know, what can they do, and what are they learning to do?
- What do you want your students to learn? What are the important understandings and core concepts you want students to develop within the learning segment?
- What instructional strategies, learning tasks, and assessments will you design to support student learning and language use?
- How is the teaching you propose supported by research and theory about how students learn?
- How is the teaching you propose informed by your knowledge of your students?

Task 1 prepares you to demonstrate and analyze the effectiveness of your teaching of the planned learning segment.

What Do I Need to Do?

- Select a class. If you teach more than one class, select one focus class for this assessment. If your placement for literacy has you responsible for a group rather than a whole class, plans should describe instruction for that group (minimum of 4 students). That group will constitute “the whole class” for edTPA.

- Provide context information. The Elementary Literacy Context for Learning Information form is provided later in this handbook and must be submitted in a template. This form provides essential information about your students and your school/classroom. The context information you submit should be no more than 3 pages, including the prompts.

- Identify a learning segment to plan, teach, and analyze. Review the curriculum with your cooperating teacher and select a learning segment of 3–5 consecutive lessons. (If teaching literacy within a large time block, select a learning segment of about 3–5 hours of connected instruction.)

- Identify a central focus. Identify the central focus along with the content standards and objectives you will address in the learning segment. The central focus should support students in developing an essential literacy strategy and the requisite skills for comprehending or composing text in meaningful contexts.
- **Analyze language demands.** Select a language function from your learning objectives. Decide which learning task will support students in using that language function, and identify additional language demands required by the task.

- **Write a lesson plan** for each lesson in the learning segment. Your lesson plans should be detailed enough that a substitute or other teacher could understand them well enough to use them.

- Lesson plans must include the following information, even if your teacher preparation program requires you to use a specific lesson plan format:
  - State-adopted student academic content standards and/or Common Core State Standards that are the target of student learning. (Note: Please include the **number and text** of each standard that is being addressed. If only a portion of a standard is being addressed, then only list the part or parts that are relevant.)
  - Learning objectives associated with the content standards
  - Informal and formal assessments used to monitor student learning, including type(s) of assessment and what is being assessed
  - Instructional strategies and learning tasks (including what you and the students will be doing) that support diverse student needs
  - Instructional resources and materials used to engage students in learning

- **Each lesson plan should be no more than 4 pages in length.** You will need to condense or excerpt lesson plans longer than 4 pages. Any rationale for decisions or explanations should be included in your Planning Commentary and deleted from your plans.

- **Respond to the commentary prompts** listed in the Planning Commentary section prior to teaching the learning segment.

- **Submit your original lesson plans.** If you make changes while teaching the learning segment, you may offer reflection on those changes in the Instruction and Assessment Commentaries that are part of Tasks 2 and 3.

- **Select and submit key instructional materials** needed to understand what you and the students will be doing *(no more than 5 additional pages per lesson plan)*. The instructional materials might include such items as class handouts, assignments, slides, and interactive whiteboard images.

- **Submit copies of all written assessments.** (Submit only the blank assessments given to students; do not submit student work samples for this task.)

- **Provide citations for the source of all materials that you did not create** *(e.g., published texts, websites, and material from other educators)*. List all citations by lesson number at the end of the Planning Commentary.

See the [Task 1: Artifacts and Commentary Specifications](#) in the Elementary Literacy Evidence Chart for instructions on electronic submission of evidence. This evidence chart identifies templates, supported file types, number of files, response length, and other important evidence specifications.
What Do I Need to Write?

In Task 1: Planning for Instruction and Assessment, you will write

- a description of your context for learning (see “What Do I Need to Do?” above for directions)
- lesson plans (see “What Do I Need to Do?” above for directions)
- a commentary explaining your plans (see “Planning Commentary” below for directions)

Planning Commentary

In Task 1: Planning for Instruction and Assessment, you will write a commentary, responding to the prompts below. Your commentary should be no more than 9 single-spaced pages, including the prompts.

1. Central Focus
   a. Describe the central focus and purpose for the content you will teach in the learning segment.
   b. Given the central focus, describe how the standards and learning objectives within your learning segment address
      - an essential literacy strategy
      - requisite skills that support the use of the strategy
      - reading/writing connections
   c. Explain how your plans build on each other to help students make connections between skills and the essential strategy to comprehend OR compose text in meaningful contexts.

2. Knowledge of Students to Inform Teaching
   For each of the prompts below (2a–b), describe what you know about your students with respect to the central focus of the learning segment.
   
   Consider the variety of learners in your class who may require different strategies/support (e.g., students with IEPs or 504 plans, English language learners, struggling readers, underperforming students or those with gaps in academic knowledge, and/or gifted students).
   
   a. Prior academic learning and prerequisite skills related to the central focus—Cite evidence of what students know, what they can do, and what they are still learning to do.
   b. Personal/cultural/community assets related to the central focus—What do you know about your students’ everyday experiences, cultural backgrounds and practices, and interests?
3. **Supporting Students’ Literacy Learning**

Respond to prompts 3a–c below. To support your justifications, refer to the instructional materials and lesson plans you have included as part of Task 1. In addition, **use principles from research and/or theory to support your explanations.**

- **a.** Justify how your understanding of your students’ prior academic learning and personal/cultural/community assets (from prompts 2a–b above) guided your choice or adaptation of learning tasks and materials. Be explicit about the connections between the learning tasks and students’ prior academic learning, assets, and research/theory.

- **b.** Describe and justify why your instructional strategies and planned supports are appropriate for the **whole class, individuals, and/or groups of students with specific learning needs.**

  Consider students with IEPs or 504 plans, English language learners, struggling readers, underperforming students or those with gaps in academic knowledge, and/or gifted students.

- **c.** Describe common developmental approximations or common misconceptions within your literacy central focus and how you will address them.

4. **Supporting Literacy Development Through Language**

- **a.** **Language Function.** Identify one language function essential for students to develop and practice the literacy strategy within your central focus. Listed below are some sample language functions. You may choose one of these or another more appropriate for your learning segment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Analyze</th>
<th>Argue</th>
<th>Categorize</th>
<th>Compare/contrast</th>
<th>Describe</th>
<th>Explain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interpret</td>
<td>Predict</td>
<td>Question</td>
<td>Retell</td>
<td>Summarize</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **b.** Identify a key learning task from your plans that provides students with opportunities to practice using the language function in ways that support the essential strategy. Identify the lesson in which the learning task occurs. (Give lesson day/number.)

- **c.** **Additional Language Demands.** Given the language function and learning task identified above, describe the following associated language demands (written or oral) students need to understand and/or use:

  - **Vocabulary** or key phrases
  - **Plus** at least one of the following:
    - **Syntax**
    - **Discourse**

  Consider the range of students’ understandings of the language function and other language demands—what do students already know, what are they struggling with, and/or what is new to them?
d. **Language Supports.** Refer to your lesson plans and instructional materials as needed in your response to the prompt.
   - Describe the instructional supports (during and/or prior to the learning task) that help students understand and successfully use the language function and additional language demands identified in prompts 4a–c.

5. **Monitoring Student Learning**
   In response to the prompts below, refer to the assessments you will submit as part of the materials for Task 1.
   a. Describe how your planned formal and informal assessments will provide direct evidence that students can use the essential literacy strategy **AND** requisite skills to comprehend or compose text **throughout** the learning segment.
   b. Explain how the design or adaptation of your planned assessments allows students with specific needs to demonstrate their learning.

Consider all students, including students with IEPs or 504 plans, English language learners, struggling readers, underperforming students or those with gaps in academic knowledge, and/or gifted students.

**How Will the Evidence of My Teaching Practice Be Assessed?**

For Task 1: Planning for Instruction and Assessment, your evidence will be assessed with rubrics 1–5, which appear in the following pages. When preparing your artifacts and commentaries, refer to the rubrics frequently to guide your thinking, planning, and writing.
Planning Rubrics

Rubric 1: Planning for Literacy Learning

How do the candidate’s plans build students’ understanding of an essential literacy strategy for comprehending OR composing text and the skills that support that strategy?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level 1</th>
<th>Level 2</th>
<th>Level 3</th>
<th>Level 4</th>
<th>Level 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Candidate’s plans for instruction <strong>focus solely on literacy skills without connections to any strategy for comprehending OR composing text.</strong> OR There are <strong>significant content inaccuracies</strong> that will lead to student misunderstandings. OR Standards, objectives, and learning tasks and materials are not aligned with each other.</td>
<td>Candidate’s plans for instruction <strong>support student learning of skills with vague connections to strategies for comprehending OR composing text.</strong></td>
<td>Candidate’s plans for instruction <strong>build on each other to support learning of the essential literacy strategy for comprehending OR composing text with a clear connection to skills.</strong></td>
<td>Candidate’s plans for instruction <strong>build on each other to create a meaningful context that supports learning of the essential literacy strategy for comprehending OR composing text with clear AND consistent connections to skills.</strong></td>
<td>Level 4 plus: Candidate’s plans build an authentic connection between reading and writing. Candidate explains how s/he will use learning tasks and materials to lead students to independently apply the essential strategy AND identified skills.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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3 Text representing key differences between adjacent score levels is shown in bold. Evidence that does not meet Level 1 criteria is scored at Level 1.
Rubric 2: Planning to Support Varied Student Learning Needs

How does the candidate use knowledge of his/her students to target support for students’ literacy learning?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level 1</th>
<th>Level 2</th>
<th>Level 3</th>
<th>Level 4</th>
<th>Level 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>There is no evidence of planned supports.</td>
<td>Planned supports are loosely tied to learning objectives or the central focus of the learning segment.</td>
<td>Planned supports are tied to learning objectives and the central focus with attention to the characteristics of the class as a whole.</td>
<td>Planned supports are tied to learning objectives and the central focus. Supports address the needs of specific individuals or groups with similar needs.</td>
<td>Level 4 plus: Supports include specific strategies to identify and respond to common developmental approximations or misconceptions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td>Candidate does not attend to ANY INSTRUCTIONAL requirements in IEPs and 504 plans.</td>
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</table>
Rubric 3: Using Knowledge of Students to Inform Teaching and Learning

How does the candidate use knowledge of his/her students to justify instructional plans?

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Candidate’s justification of learning tasks is either missing OR represents a deficit view of students and their backgrounds.</td>
<td>Candidate justifies learning tasks with limited attention to students’ • prior academic learning OR • personal/cultural/community assets.</td>
<td>Candidate justifies why learning tasks (or their adaptations) are appropriate using examples of students’ • prior academic learning OR • personal/cultural/community assets.</td>
<td>Candidate justifies why learning tasks (or their adaptations) are appropriate using examples of students’ • prior academic learning AND • personal/cultural/community assets.</td>
<td>Level 4 plus: Candidate’s justification is supported by principles from research and/or theory.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Candidate makes superficial connections to research and/or theory.</td>
<td>Candidate makes connections to research and/or theory.</td>
<td>Candidate makes connections to research and/or theory.</td>
<td>Candidate makes connections to research and/or theory.</td>
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</table>
### Rubric 4: Identifying and Supporting Language Demands

#### How does the candidate identify and support language demands associated with a key literacy learning task?

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</table>
| Language demands<sup>4</sup> identified by the candidate are **not** consistent with the selected language function<sup>5</sup> OR task. | Candidate identifies vocabulary as the major language demand associated with the language function. Attention to additional demands is superficial. | General language supports address use of  
- vocabulary **AND**  
- one or more additional language demand(s) (function, syntax, discourse). | Targeted language supports address use of  
- vocabulary **AND**  
- one or more additional language demand(s) (syntax, discourse). | Level 4 plus: Language supports are designed to meet the needs of students with different levels of language learning. |
| OR |  
Language supports are missing or are not aligned with the language demand(s) for the learning task. |  
Language supports **primarily** address definitions of vocabulary. |  
|  

<sup>4</sup> Language demands include: language function, vocabulary, syntax and grammar, and discourse (organizational structures, text structure, etc.).

<sup>5</sup> Language function refers to the learning outcome (verb) selected in prompt 4a (e.g., analyze, interpret…).
### Rubric 5: Planning Assessments to Monitor and Support Student Learning

How are the informal and formal assessments selected or designed to monitor students’ use of the essential strategy and requisite skills to comprehend or compose text?

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</thead>
</table>
| The assessments only provide evidence of students’ use of skills.  

OR  

Candidate does not attend to ANY ASSESSMENT requirements in IEPs and 504 plans. | The assessments provide limited evidence to monitor students’ use of  

- the essential strategy OR  

- skills during the learning segment. | The assessments provide evidence to monitor students’ use of  

- the essential strategy AND  

- skills during the learning segment. | The assessments provide multiple forms of evidence to monitor students’ use of  

- the essential strategy AND  

- skills throughout the learning segment. | Level 4 plus:  

The assessments are strategically designed to allow individuals or groups with specific needs to demonstrate their learning. |
Task 2: Instructing and Engaging Students in Learning

What Do I Need to Think About?

In Task 2: Instructing and Engaging Students in Learning, you will demonstrate how you support and engage students in literacy learning. Before you begin your instruction, you need to think about the following:

- What kind of learning environment do you want to develop in order to establish respect and rapport, and to support students’ engagement in learning?
- What kinds of learning tasks actively engage students in the central focus of the learning segment?
- How will you elicit and build on student responses in ways that develop and deepen content understanding?
- In what ways will you connect new content to your students’ prior academic learning and personal, cultural, or community assets during your instruction?
- How will you use evidence from your instruction to examine and change your teaching practices to more effectively meet a variety of student learning needs?

What Do I Need to Do?

- Obtain required permission for videorecording. Before you record your video, ensure that you have the appropriate permission from the parents/guardians of your students and from adults who appear in the video. Adjust the camera angle to exclude individuals for whom you do not have permission to film.
- Examine your plans for the learning segment and identify challenging learning tasks in which you and students are actively engaged. The video clips you select for submission should provide a sample of how you interact with students to develop their literacy strategy and skills.
- Identify lessons to videorecord.
- Provide 1–2 clips (together totaling no more than 15 minutes) that demonstrate how you interact with students in a positive literacy environment to develop an essential literacy strategy and requisite skills. Your clips should show how you model the strategy and support students to practice and independently apply the essential literacy strategy to comprehend or compose text in meaningful contexts.
- Determine whether you will feature the whole class or a targeted group of students (minimum of 4 students) within the class.
(Optional) Provide evidence of students’ language use. You may provide evidence of language use with your video clips from Task 2, an additional video clip of one or more students using language within the learning segment (no more than 5 minutes in length), AND/OR through the student work samples analyzed in Task 3.

Videorecord your classroom teaching. Tips for videorecording your class are available from your teacher preparation program.

Select 1–2 video clips to submit and verify that the clip(s) meet the following requirements:
- Check the video and sound quality to ensure that you and your students can be seen and heard on the video clip(s) you submit. If most of the audio in a clip cannot be understood by a scorer, submit a different clip. If there are occasional audio portions of a clip that cannot be understood that are relevant to your commentary responses, do one of the following: 1) provide a transcript with time stamps of the inaudible portion and refer to the transcript in your response; or 2) embed quotes with time-stamp references in the commentary response.
- A video clip must be continuous and unedited, with no interruption in the events.
- If you have inadvertently included individuals for whom you do not have permission to film in the video clip(s) you plan to submit, you may use software to blur the face(s) of these individuals. This is not considered editing. Other portions of the submitted video clip(s), including the classroom, your face, and the faces of individuals for whom you have obtained permission to film should remain unblurred.
- Do not include the name of the state, school, or district in your video. Use first names only for all individuals appearing in the video.

Respond to the prompts listed in the Instruction Commentary section below after viewing the video clip(s).

Determine if additional information is needed to understand what you and the students are doing in the video clip(s). For example, if there are graphics, texts, or images that are not clearly visible in the video, or comments that are not clearly heard, you may insert digital copies or transcriptions at the end of the Instruction Commentary (no more than 2 pages in addition to the responses to commentary prompts).

See the Task 2: Artifacts and Commentary Specifications in the Elementary Literacy Evidence Chart for instructions on electronic submission of evidence. This evidence chart identifies templates, supported file types, number of files, response length, and other important evidence specifications.

What Do I Need to Write?

Instruction Commentary

In Task 2: Instructing and Engaging Students in Learning, you will write a commentary responding to the prompts below. Your commentary should be no more than 6 single-spaced pages, including the prompts. If needed, insert no more than 2 additional pages of supporting documentation for the videorecordings at the end of the commentary (e.g., digital copies of indiscernible materials or transcriptions of inaudible comments).
1. Which lesson or lessons are shown in the video clip(s)? Identify the lesson(s) by lesson plan number.

2. **Promoting a Positive Learning Environment**
   Refer to scenes in the video clip(s) where you provided a positive learning environment.
   a. How did you demonstrate mutual respect for, rapport with, and responsiveness to students with varied needs and backgrounds, and challenge students to engage in learning?

3. **Engaging Students in Learning**
   Refer to examples from the video clip(s) in your responses to the prompts.
   a. Explain how your instruction engaged students in developing an essential literacy strategy and requisite skills.
   b. Describe how your instruction linked students’ prior academic learning and personal, cultural, and community assets with new learning.

4. **Deepening Student Learning during Instruction**
   Refer to examples from the video clip(s) in your explanations.
   a. Explain how you **elicited and built on student responses** to promote thinking and apply the essential literacy strategy using requisite skills to comprehend **OR** compose text.
   b. Explain how you modeled the essential literacy strategy and supported students as they practiced and applied the strategy in a meaning-based context.

5. **Analyzing Teaching**
   Refer to examples from the video clip(s) in your responses to the prompts.
   a. What changes would you make to your instruction—for the whole class and/or for students who need greater support or challenge—to better support student learning of the central focus (e.g., missed opportunities)?
   Consider the **variety of learners** in your class who may require different strategies/support (e.g., students with IEPs or 504 plans, English language learners, struggling readers, underperforming students or those with gaps in academic knowledge, and/or gifted students).
   b. Why do you think these changes would improve student learning? Support your explanation with evidence of student learning **AND** principles from theory and/or research.

**How Will the Evidence of My Teaching Practice Be Assessed?**

For Task 2: Instructing and Engaging Students in Learning, your evidence will be assessed using rubrics 6–10, which appear in the following pages. When preparing your artifacts and commentaries, refer to the rubrics frequently to guide your thinking, instruction, and writing.
### Instruction Rubrics

#### Rubric 6: Learning Environment

How does the candidate demonstrate a positive literacy learning environment that supports students’ engagement in learning?

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The clips reveal evidence of disrespectful interactions between teacher and students or between students. OR Candidate allows disruptive behavior to interfere with student learning.</td>
<td>The candidate demonstrates respect for students. AND Candidate provides a learning environment that serves primarily to control student behavior, and minimally supports the learning goals.</td>
<td>The candidate demonstrates rapport with and respect for students. AND Candidate provides a positive, low-risk social environment that reveals mutual respect among students.</td>
<td>The candidate demonstrates rapport with and respect for students. AND Candidate provides a challenging learning environment that promotes mutual respect among students.</td>
<td>The candidate demonstrates rapport with and respect for students. AND Candidate provides a challenging learning environment that provides opportunities to express varied perspectives and promotes mutual respect among students.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### Rubric 7: Engaging Students in Learning

**How does the candidate actively engage students in integrating strategies and skills to comprehend or compose text?**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students are participating in tasks that are vaguely or superficially related to the central focus.</td>
<td>Students are participating in learning tasks focusing primarily on skills with little attention to the essential strategy for comprehending or composing text.</td>
<td>Students are engaged in learning tasks that address their understanding of • the essential literacy strategy for comprehending or composing text AND • requisite skills.</td>
<td>Students are engaged in learning tasks that integrate their understanding of • the essential literacy strategy for comprehending or composing text AND • requisite skills.</td>
<td>Students are engaged in learning tasks that deepen and extend their understanding of • the essential literacy strategy for comprehending or composing text, AND • requisite skills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is little or no evidence that the candidate links students’ prior academic learning or personal, cultural, or community assets with new learning. OR Links cause student confusion.</td>
<td>Candidate makes vague or superficial links between prior academic learning and new literacy learning.</td>
<td>Candidate links prior academic learning to new literacy learning.</td>
<td>Candidate links prior academic learning AND personal, cultural, or community assets to new literacy learning.</td>
<td>Candidate prompts students to link prior academic learning AND personal, cultural, or community assets to new literacy learning.</td>
</tr>
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</table>
## Rubric 8: Deepening Student Learning

**How does the candidate elicit student responses to promote thinking and apply the essential literacy strategy and requisite skills to comprehend or compose text?**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Candidate does most of the talking and the students provide few responses.</td>
<td>Candidate primarily asks surface-level questions and evaluates student responses as correct or incorrect.</td>
<td>Candidate elicits student responses to support use of • the essential strategy <strong>OR</strong> • literacy skills.</td>
<td>Candidate elicits and builds on students’ responses to explicitly portray, extend, or clarify the • essential literacy strategy <strong>AND</strong> • skills.</td>
<td>Level 4 plus: Candidate facilitates interactions among students so they can evaluate their own abilities to apply the essential strategy in meaningful reading or writing contexts.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>OR</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Candidate responses include <strong>significant content inaccuracies</strong> that will lead to student misunderstandings.</td>
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### Rubric 9: Subject-Specific Pedagogy

How does the candidate support students to learn, practice, and apply the essential literacy strategy in a meaning-based context?

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<tr>
<td>Candidate does not teach students how to use the essential strategy to support comprehension or composition.</td>
<td>Candidate models the essential strategy without opportunities for students to practice or apply it.</td>
<td>Candidate models the essential strategy with limited opportunities for practice.</td>
<td>Candidate explicitly teaches students how to apply the strategy and provides opportunities for guided practice.</td>
<td>Level 4 plus: Candidate explicitly teaches students when to apply the strategy in meaningful contexts.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**OR**

- There is a clear mismatch between or among strategies, skills, and students' readiness to learn.

**OR**

- Materials used in the clips include significant content inaccuracies that will lead to student misunderstandings.
Rubric 10: Analyzing Teaching Effectiveness

How does the candidate use evidence to evaluate and change teaching practice to meet students’ varied learning needs?

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Candidate suggests changes unrelated to evidence of student learning.</td>
<td>Candidate proposes changes to teacher practices that are superficially related to student learning needs (e.g., task management, pacing, improving directions).</td>
<td>Candidate proposes changes that address students’ collective learning needs related to the central focus.</td>
<td>Candidate proposes changes that address individual and collective learning needs related to the central focus.</td>
<td>Level 4 plus: Candidate justifies changes using principles of research and/or theory.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Candidate makes superficial connections to research and/or theory.</td>
<td>Candidate makes connections to research and/or theory.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Task 3: Assessing Student Learning

#### What Do I Need to Think About?

In Task 3: Assessing Student Learning, you will analyze both student learning and student use of language. Before you begin the analysis, you need to think about the following:

- How will you gather evidence and make sense of what students have learned?
- How will you provide meaningful feedback to your students?
- How will you use evidence of what students know and are able to do to plan next steps in instruction?
- How will you identify evidence of and explain students’ use of language that demonstrates the development of content understanding?

#### What Do I Need to Do?

- **Determine which assessment from your learning segment you will use** to evaluate your students’ developing knowledge and skills. It should be an assessment that is completed by the whole class featured in the learning segment. (If you are teaching only a group within the class for the learning segment, that group will be “the whole class.”) The assessment should reflect the work of individuals, not groups, but may be individual work from a group task. The assessment should provide opportunities for students to demonstrate
  - the essential literacy strategy
  - requisite skills

- **Define and submit the evaluation criteria** you will use to analyze student learning related to the literacy understandings described above.

- **Collect and analyze student work** from the selected assessment to identify quantitative and qualitative patterns of learning within and across learners in the class. You may submit text files with scanned student work OR, for oral assessments of primary grade students (e.g., reading aloud, dictating text, or orally demonstrating the essential literacy strategy), a video or audio file. (Note that the oral assessment must be given to the whole class, though not necessarily at the same time.)

- **Select 3 student work samples** that represent the patterns of learning (i.e., what individuals or groups generally understood and what a number of students were still struggling to understand) you identified in your assessment analysis. These students will be your focus students for this task. At least one of the students must have specific learning needs, for example, a student with an IEP (Individualized Education Program) or 504 plan, an English language learner, a struggling reader or writer, an underperforming student or a student with gaps in academic knowledge, and/or a gifted student needing greater support or challenge.

- **Document the feedback** you gave to each of the 3 focus students on the work sample itself, as an audio clip, or as a video clip.
If you submit a video or audio clip of feedback or a work sample and you or the focus students are occasionally inaudible, attach a transcription of inaudible portions (no more than 2 additional pages) to the end of the Assessment Commentary.

If you submit a work sample or feedback to focus students as a video or audio clip and additional students are present, clearly identify which students are your focus students at the end of the Assessment Commentary (in no more than two sentences).

Respond to the prompts listed in the Assessment Commentary section below after analyzing student work from the selected assessment.

Include and submit the chosen assessment, including the directions/prompts provided to students. Attach the assessment (no more than 5 additional pages) to the end of the Assessment Commentary.

Provide evidence of students’ understanding and use of the targeted academic language function. You may choose evidence from the video clip(s) submitted in Task 2, an additional video clip of one or more students using language within the learning segment (no more than 5 minutes in length), AND/OR student work samples submitted in Task 3.

See the Task 3: Artifacts and Commentary Specifications in the Elementary Literacy Evidence Chart for instructions on electronic submission of evidence. This evidence chart identifies templates, supported file types, number of files, response length, and other important evidence specifications.

What Do I Need to Write?

Assessment Commentary

In Task 3: Assessing Student Learning, you will write a commentary, responding to the prompts below. Your commentary should be no more than 10 single-spaced pages, including the prompts. Attach the assessment used to evaluate student performance (no more than 5 additional pages) and, if necessary, a transcription of inaudible portions of a video or audio clip of feedback or a work sample (no more than 2 additional pages) to the end of the Assessment Commentary. These additional pages do not count toward the commentary page limit noted above.

1. Analyzing Student Learning
   a. Identify the specific learning objectives and standards measured by the assessment you chose for analysis.
   b. Provide a graphic (table or chart) or narrative that summarizes student learning for your whole class. Be sure to summarize student learning for all evaluation criteria submitted in Task 3, Part D.
   c. Use evidence found in the 3 student work samples and the whole class summary to analyze the patterns of learning for the whole class and differences for groups or individual learners relative to
      - the essential literacy strategy
      - requisite skills
Consider what students understand and do well, and where they continue to struggle (e.g., common errors, confusions, need for greater challenge).

2. Feedback to Guide Further Learning

Refer to specific evidence of submitted feedback to support your explanations.

a. In what form did you submit your evidence of feedback for the 3 focus students?
   - Written directly on work samples or in a separate document;
   - In audio files; or
   - In video clips from the Instruction task (provide a time-stamp reference) or in a separate video clip

b. Explain how feedback provided to the 3 focus students addresses their individual strengths and needs relative to the standards/objectives measured.

c. Describe how you will support students to apply feedback to guide improvement, either within the learning segment or at a later time.

3. Evidence of Language Understanding and Use

You may provide evidence of students’ language use from ONE, TWO, OR ALL THREE of the following sources:

1. Use video clip(s) from Task 2 and provide time-stamp references for language use.

2. Submit an additional video file named “Language Use” of no more than 5 minutes in length and provide time-stamp references for student language use (this can be footage of one or more students’ language use). Submit the clip in Task 3, Part B.

3. Use the student work samples analyzed in Task 3 and cite language use.

When responding to the prompt below, use concrete examples from the video clip(s) (using time-stamp references) and/or student work samples as evidence. Evidence from the clip(s) may focus on one or more students.

a. Explain the extent to which your students were able to use or struggled to use language (selected function, vocabulary, and additional identified language demands from Task 1) to develop content understandings.

4. Using Assessment to Inform Instruction

a. Based on your analysis of student learning presented in prompts 1b–c, describe next steps for instruction
   - for the whole class
   - for the 3 focus students and other individuals/groups with specific needs

Consider the variety of learners in your class who may require different strategies/support (e.g., students with IEPs or 504 plans, English language learners, struggling readers, underperforming students or those with gaps in
academic knowledge, and/or gifted students needing greater support or challenge).

b. Explain how these next steps follow from your analysis of student learning. Support your explanation with principles from research and/or theory.

How Will the Evidence of My Teaching Practice Be Assessed?

For Task 3: Assessing Student Learning, your evidence will be assessed using rubrics 11–15, which appear in the following pages. When preparing your artifacts and commentaries, refer to the rubrics frequently to guide your thinking, planning, instruction, assessment, and writing.
### Assessment Rubrics

#### Rubric 11: Analysis of Student Learning

**How does the candidate analyze evidence of student learning related to the essential literacy strategy and requisite skills?**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The analysis is <strong>superficial or not supported</strong> by either student work samples or the summary of student learning.</td>
<td>The analysis focuses on what students did right <strong>OR</strong> wrong and is consistent with the summary.</td>
<td>The analysis focuses on what students did right <strong>AND</strong> wrong and is consistent with the summary.</td>
<td>Analysis uses specific examples from work samples to demonstrate patterns of learning consistent with the summary.</td>
<td>Analysis uses specific evidence from work samples to demonstrate the connections between quantitative and qualitative patterns of learning for individuals or groups.</td>
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<td>OR</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>AND</td>
<td>AND</td>
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<tr>
<td>The evaluation criteria are not aligned with the learning objectives and/or analysis.</td>
<td>Analysis includes some differences in whole class learning.</td>
<td>Patterns of learning are described for whole class.</td>
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<td>OR</td>
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<td>The analysis is not aligned with the learning objectives.</td>
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Rubric 12: Providing Feedback to Guide Further Learning

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feedback is unrelated to the learning objectives OR is developmentally inappropriate.</td>
<td>Feedback is general and addresses needs AND/OR strengths related to the learning objectives.</td>
<td>Feedback is <strong>specific and addresses either needs OR strengths related to the learning objectives.</strong></td>
<td>Feedback is specific and <strong>addresses both strengths AND needs</strong> related to the learning objectives.</td>
<td><strong>Level 4 plus:</strong> Candidate describes how s/he will guide focus students to use feedback to evaluate their own strengths and needs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feedback contains significant content inaccuracies.</td>
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<td>No feedback is provided to one or more focus students.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Opportunities for applying feedback are not described.</td>
<td>Candidate provides vague explanation for how focus students will use feedback.</td>
<td>Candidate describes how focus students will apply feedback to improve learning related to learning objectives.</td>
<td>Candidate describes how s/he will support focus students to apply feedback on their strengths and weaknesses to deepen understandings and skills related to the learning objectives.</td>
<td>Level 4 plus: Candidate guides focus students to generalize feedback to future assignments or contexts.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>OR</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Candidate provides limited or no feedback to inform student learning.</td>
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Rubric 14: Analyzing Students’ Language Use and Literacy Learning

How does the candidate analyze students’ use of language to develop content understanding?

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<th>Level 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Candidate identifies student language use that is superficially related or unrelated to the language demands (function, vocabulary and additional demands). | Candidate describes how students use vocabulary associated with the language function. | Candidate explains and provides evidence of students’ use of  
  • the language function **AND**  
  • one or more additional language demands (vocabulary, syntax, discourse). | Candidate explains and provides concrete evidence of students’ use of  
  • the language function, vocabulary, **AND**  
  • additional language demand(s) (syntax, discourse) in ways that develop content understandings. | Level 4 plus: Candidate explains and provides evidence of language use and content learning for students with varied needs. |
| **OR**                                                                 |                                                                                   | **OR**                                                                 |                                                                                   |                                                                                   |
| Candidate does not address students’ repeated misuse of vocabulary.     |                                                                                   | Candidate’s description or explanation of language use is not consistent with the evidence submitted. |                                                                                   |                                                                                   |
| **OR**                                                                 |                                                                                   |                                                                                   |                                                                                   |                                                                                   |

6 The selected language function is the verb identified in the Planning Commentary Prompt 4a (analyze, explain, interpret, etc.).

7 These are the additional language demands identified in the Planning Commentary Prompt 4c (vocabulary and/or symbols, plus either syntax or discourse).
### Rubric 15: Using Assessment to Inform Instruction

How does the candidate use the analysis of what students know and are able to do to plan next steps in instruction?

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Next steps do not follow from the analysis. OR Next steps are not relevant to the standards and learning objectives assessed. OR Next steps are not described in sufficient detail to understand them.</td>
<td>Next steps primarily focus on changes to teaching practices that are superficially related to student learning needs, for example, repeating instruction, pacing, or classroom management issues.</td>
<td>Next steps propose general support that improves student learning related to assessed standards and objectives. Next steps are loosely connected with research and/or theory.</td>
<td>Next steps provide targeted support to individuals or groups to improve their learning relative to • the essential literacy strategy <strong>OR</strong> • requisite skills. Next steps are connected with research and/or theory.</td>
<td>Next steps provide targeted support to individuals <strong>AND</strong> groups to improve their learning relative to • the essential literacy strategy <strong>AND</strong> • requisite skills. Next steps are justified with principles from research and/or theory.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Professional Responsibilities

Refer to the following table for an overview of your professional responsibilities in developing evidence for edTPA. If you are submitting artifacts and commentaries for official scoring, refer to www.edTPA.com, for complete and current information before beginning your work. Included here are important information and policies such as submission requirements and deadlines, registration agreements, attestations, permissions, and confidentiality. Whether or not you are submitting for official scoring, you should fulfill the professional responsibilities described below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Protect confidentiality</td>
<td>To protect confidentiality, please remove your name and use pseudonyms or general references (e.g., “the district”) for your state, school, district, and cooperating teacher. Mask or remove all names on any typed or written material (e.g., commentaries, lesson plans, student work samples) that could identify individuals or institutions. During videorecording, use students' first names only. To ensure confidentiality of your students and yourself, do not share your video on any publicly accessible platforms or websites (YouTube, Facebook, etc.).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acquire permissions</td>
<td>Before you record your classroom instruction, ensure that you have the appropriate permission from the parents/guardians of your students and from adults who appear in the videorecording. Your program will provide you with procedures and necessary forms to obtain these permissions, according to agreements with the school or district in which you are student teaching or completing your internship. If your program does not provide the necessary forms, you may refer to the sample forms found on <a href="http://www.edTPA.com">www.edTPA.com</a>. The release forms are not to be submitted with your materials, but you should follow your campus policy for retaining them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cite sources</td>
<td>Provide citations for the source of all materials that you did not create (e.g., published texts, websites, and material from other educators). List all citations by lesson number at the end of the Planning Commentary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Align instruction with state standards</td>
<td>As part of the assessment, you will document the alignment of your lesson plans with state-adopted academic content standards or Common Core State Standards that are the target of student learning. Refer to the education agency website for your state to obtain copies of relevant standards for this assessment.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Follow the guidelines for candidate support at www.edTPA.com | Follow the guidelines for candidate support found at www.edTPA.com as you develop your evidence for edTPA. Although you may seek and receive appropriate support from your university supervisors, cooperating/master teachers, university instructors, or peers during this process, the ultimate responsibility for completing this assessment lies with you. Therefore, when you submit your completed work, you must be able to confirm your adherence with certain statements, such as the following:  
  - I have primary responsibility for teaching the students/class during the learning segment profiled in this assessment.  
  - I have not previously taught this learning segment to the students/class.  
  - The video clips submitted are unedited (continuous) and show me teaching the students/class profiled in the evidence submitted.  
  - The student work included in the documentation is that of my students, completed during the learning segment documented in this assessment.  
  - I am author of the commentaries and other written responses to prompts in this assessment.  
  - Appropriate citations have been made for all materials in the assessment whose sources are from published text, the Internet, or other educators. |
Elementary Literacy Context for Learning Information

Use the Context for Learning Information to supply information about your school/classroom context.

About the School Where You Are Teaching

1. In what type of school do you teach? (Type an “X” next to the appropriate description; if “other” applies, provide a brief description.)
   
   Elementary school: _____
   Middle school: _____
   Other (please describe): _____

   Urban: _____
   Suburban: _____
   Rural: _____

2. List any special features of your school or classroom setting (e.g., charter, co-teaching, themed magnet, intervention or other leveled small group instruction, classroom aide, bilingual, team taught with a special education teacher) that will affect your teaching in this learning segment.

3. Describe any district, school, or cooperating teacher requirements or expectations that might affect your planning or delivery of instruction, such as required curricula, pacing plan, use of specific instructional strategies, or standardized tests.

About the Class Featured in This Assessment

1. How much time is devoted each day to literacy instruction in your classroom?

2. Is there any ability grouping or tracking in literacy? If so, please describe how it affects your class.

3. Identify any textbook or instructional program you primarily use for literacy instruction. If a textbook, please provide the title, publisher, and date of publication.

4. List other resources (e.g., electronic whiteboard, classroom library or other text sets, on-line professional resources) you use for literacy instruction in this class.
### About the Students in the Class Featured in This Assessment

1. Grade-level(s): ________________________________  
2. Number of  
   - students in the class: _____  
   - males: _____ females: _____  
3. Complete the chart below to summarize required or needed supports, accommodations, or modifications for your students that will affect your instruction in this learning segment. As needed, consult with your cooperating teacher to complete the chart. Some rows have been completed in italics as examples. Use as many rows as you need.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consider the variety of learners in your class who may require different strategies/supports or accommodations/modifications to instruction or assessment.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| - English language learners  
  - Gifted students needing greater support or challenge  
  - Students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) or 504 plans  
  - Struggling readers  
  - Underperforming students or those with gaps in academic knowledge |

#### Students with Specific Learning Needs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IEP/504 Plans: Classifications/Needs</th>
<th>Number of Students</th>
<th>Supports, Accommodations, Modifications, Pertinent IEP Goals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Example: Visual processing</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Close monitoring, large print text, window card to isolate text</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Other Learning Needs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other Learning Needs</th>
<th>Number of Students</th>
<th>Supports, Accommodations, Modifications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Example: Struggling readers</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Leveled text, targeted guided reading, ongoing reading assessment (e.g., running records, miscue, conferencing)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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## Elementary Literacy Evidence Chart

Your evidence must be submitted to the electronic portfolio management system used by your teacher preparation program. Your submission must conform to the artifact and commentary specifications for each task. This section provides instructions for all evidence types as well as a description of supported file types for evidence submission, number of files, response lengths, and other information regarding format specifications.

### Task 1: Artifacts and Commentary Specifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What to Submit</th>
<th>Supported File Types</th>
<th>Number of Files</th>
<th>Response Length</th>
<th>Additional Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Part A: Context for Learning Information (template provided) | .doc; .docx; .odt; .pdf | 1 | 1 | **No more than 3 pages, including prompts** | Use Arial 11-point type.  
Single space with 1” margins on all sides. |
| Part B: Lesson Plans for Learning Segment | .doc; .docx; .odt; .pdf | 1 | 1 | **No more than 4 pages per lesson** | Submit 3–5 lesson plans in 1 file.  
Within the file, label each lesson plan (Lesson 1, Lesson 2, etc.).  
All rationale or explanation for plans should be written in the Planning Commentary and removed from lesson plans. |
| Part C: Instructional Materials | .doc; .docx; .odt; .pdf | 1 | 1 | **No more than 5 pages of KEY instructional materials per lesson plan** | Submit all materials in 1 file.  
Within the file, label materials by corresponding lesson (Lesson 1 Instructional Materials, Lesson 2 Instructional Materials, etc.).  
Order materials as they are used in the learning segment. |
| Part D: Assessments | .doc; .docx; .odt; .pdf | 1 | 1 | N/A | Submit assessments in 1 file.  
Within the file, label assessments by corresponding lesson (Lesson 1 Assessments, Lesson 2 Assessments, etc.).  
Order assessments as they are used in the learning segment. |
| Part E: Planning Commentary (template provided) | .doc; .docx; .odt; .pdf | 1 | 1 | **No more than 9 pages of commentary, including prompts** | Use Arial 11-point type.  
Single space with 1” margins on all sides.  
Respond to prompts before teaching the learning segment. |
## Task 2: Artifacts and Commentary Specifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What to Submit</th>
<th>Supported File Types</th>
<th>Number of Files</th>
<th>Response Length</th>
<th>Additional Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Part A: Video Clips             | flv, asf, qt, mov, mpg, mpeg, avi, wmv, mp4, m4v | 1 2             | No more than 15 minutes total running time | - Before you record your video, obtain permission from the parents/guardians of your students and from adults who appear on the video.  
  - Refer to Task 2, What Do I Need to Do? for video clip content and requirements.  
  - When naming each clip file, include the number of the lesson shown in the video clip. |
| Part B: Instruction Commentary (template provided) | .doc; .docx; .odt; .pdf | 1 1             | No more than 6 pages of commentary, including prompts If needed, no more than 2 additional pages of supporting documentation | - Use Arial 11-point type.  
  - Single space with 1" margins on all sides.  
  **IMPORTANT:**  
  - Insert documentation at the end of the commentary file if  
    - you or the students are using graphics, texts, or images that are not clearly visible in the video  
    - you chose to submit a transcript for occasionally inaudible portions of the video  
  - If submitting documentation, include the video clip number, lesson number, and explanatory text (e.g., “Clip 1, lesson 2, text from a whiteboard that is not visible in the video,” “Clip 2, lesson 4, transcription of a student response that is inaudible”). |
## Task 3: Artifacts and Commentary Specifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What to Submit</th>
<th>Supported File Types</th>
<th>Number of Files Min/Max</th>
<th>Response Length</th>
<th>Additional Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Part A: Student Work Samples</strong></td>
<td>For written work samples: .doc; .docx; .odt; .pdf</td>
<td>3/3</td>
<td>No more than 5 minutes per focus student for video or audio student work samples</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>For audio work samples: flv, asf, wmv, qt, mov, mpg, avi, mp3, wav, mp4, wma</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>For written work samples, use correction fluid, tape, or a felt-tip marker to mask or remove students’ names, your name, and the name of the school before copying/scanning any work samples. If your students’ writing is illegible, write a transcription directly on the work sample.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>For video work samples: flv, asf, qt, mov, mpg, mpeg, avi, wmv, mp4, m4v</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>On each work sample, indicate the student number (Student 1 Work Sample, Student 2 Work Sample, or Student 3 Work Sample) and refer to them accordingly in the Assessment Commentary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>For audio feedback: flv, asf, wmv, qt, mov, mpg, avi, mp3, wav, mp4, wma</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>When naming each work sample file, include the student number.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>For video clips (feedback and/or language use): flv, asf, qt, mov, mpg, mpeg, avi, wmv, mp4, m4v</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>If you submit a work sample as a video or audio clip and there are audio portions that cannot be clearly heard, attach a transcription of the inaudible portions to the end of the Assessment Commentary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Part B: Evidence of Feedback</strong></td>
<td>For written feedback not written on the work samples: .doc; .docx; .odt; .pdf</td>
<td>0/4</td>
<td>No page limit for written feedback</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And, if included, video evidence of academic language use</td>
<td>For audio feedback: flv, asf, wmv, qt, mov, mpg, avi, mp3, wav, mp4, wma</td>
<td></td>
<td>No more than 3 minutes per focus student for video or audio feedback</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>For video clips (feedback and/or language use): flv, asf, qt, mov, mpg, mpeg, avi, wmv, mp4, m4v</td>
<td></td>
<td>No more than 5 minutes for video evidence of student language use</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>Document the location of your evidence of feedback in the Assessment Commentary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>If feedback is not written on the student work samples or recorded on the video clips, submit only 1 file for each student—a document, video file, OR audio file—and indicate the student number (Student 1 Feedback, Student 2 Feedback, or Student 3 Feedback) in the corresponding feedback.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>When naming each feedback file, include the student number.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>If you submit feedback as a video or audio clip and your comments cannot be clearly heard, attach a transcription of your comments to the end of the Assessment Commentary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>For Academic Language – If you choose to submit a video clip of student language use, it should be <strong>no more than 5 minutes</strong>, with a time-stamp reference for the evidence of language use described in the Assessment Commentary. You may identify a portion of a clip provided for Task 2 or submit an entirely new clip.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Continued on next page)
## Task 3: Artifacts and Commentary Specifications (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What to Submit</th>
<th>Supported File Types</th>
<th>Number of Files</th>
<th>Response Length</th>
<th>Additional Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Part C: Assessment Commentary (template provided) | .doc; .docx; .odt; .pdf | 1 1 | **No more than 10 pages** of commentary, including prompts | □ Use Arial 11-point type.  
□ Single space with 1" margins on all sides.  
**IMPORTANT:** Insert a copy of the chosen assessment, including directions/prompts provided to students. |
| Part D: Evaluation Criteria | .doc; .docx; .odt; .pdf | 1 1 | N/A | □ no more than 5 additional pages for the chosen assessment,  
□ if necessary, **no more than 2 additional pages** of transcriptions |
Elementary Literacy Glossary

Source citations for glossary entries are provided as footnotes in this section.

**academic language:** Oral and written language used for academic purposes. Academic language is the means by which students develop and express content understandings. Academic language represents the language of the discipline that students need to learn and use to participate and engage in the content area in meaningful ways. There are **language demands** that teachers need to consider as they plan to support student learning of content. These **language demands** include **vocabulary**, **language functions**, **syntax**, and **discourse**.

- **discourse:** Discourse includes the structures of written and oral language, as well as how members of the discipline talk, write, and participate in knowledge construction. Discipline-specific discourse has distinctive features or ways of structuring oral or written language (text structures) that provide useful ways for the content to be communicated. In the language arts and literacy, there are structures for composing, interpreting, and comprehending expository, narrative, poetic, journalistic, and graphic print materials as well as video and live presentations. If the language function is to interpret character development, then appropriate language forms could include written essays (with particular ways of citing textual evidence) or pattern sentences, such as, “The author used (action, dialogue, and/or description) to introduce (main character). One example of (action, dialogue, and/or description) was ____________, which suggested that the character was ______________.”

- **language demands:** Specific ways that academic language (vocabulary, functions, discourse, syntax) is used by students to participate in learning tasks through reading, writing, listening, and/or speaking to demonstrate their disciplinary understanding.

- **language functions:** The content and language focus of the learning task, represented by the active verbs within the learning outcomes. Common language functions in the language arts include **identifying** main ideas and details; **analyzing** and **interpreting** characters and plots; **arguing** a position or point of view; **predicting**: **evaluating or interpreting** an author’s purpose, message, and use of setting, mood, or tone; **comparing** ideas within and between texts; and so on.

- **syntax:** The set of conventions for organizing symbols, words, and phrases together into structures (e.g., sentences, graphs, tables).

- **vocabulary:** Includes words and phrases that are used within disciplines, including: (1) words and phrases with subject-specific meanings that differ from meanings used in everyday life (e.g., table); (2) general academic vocabulary used across disciplines.

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(e.g., compare, analyze, evaluate); and (3) subject-specific words defined for use in the discipline.\textsuperscript{11}

**aligned:** Consistently addressing the same/similar learning outcomes for students.

**artifacts:** Authentic work completed by you and your students, including lesson plans, copies of instructional and assessment materials, video clips of your teaching, and student work samples. Artifacts are submitted as part of your evidence.

**assessment (formal and informal):** "[R]efer[s] to all those activities undertaken by teachers and by their students . . . that provide information to be used as feedback to modify the teaching and learning activities."\textsuperscript{12} Assessments provide evidence of students’ prior knowledge, thinking, or learning in order to evaluate what students understand and how they are thinking. Informal assessments may include, for example, student questions and responses during instruction and teacher observations of students as they work. Formal assessments may include, for example, quizzes, homework assignments, journals, and projects.

**assets (knowledge of students):**

- **personal:** Refers to specific background information that students bring to the learning environment. Students may bring interests, knowledge, everyday experiences, family backgrounds, and so on, that a teacher can draw upon to support learning.

- **cultural:** Refers to the cultural backgrounds and practices that students bring to the learning environment, such as traditions, languages, worldviews, literature, art, and so on, that a teacher can draw upon to support learning.

- **community:** Refers to common backgrounds and experiences that students bring from the community where they live, such as resources, local landmarks, community events and practices, and so on, that a teacher can draw upon to support learning.

**central focus:** A description of the important understandings and core concepts that you want students to develop within the learning segment. The central focus should go beyond a list of facts and skills, align with content standards and learning objectives, and address the subject-specific components in the learning segment. The subject-specific components for elementary literacy include an essential literacy strategy and the associated requisite skills for comprehending or composing text. For example, the central focus for a primary grade learning segment might be summarizing narratives. The learning segment would focus on the essential literacy strategy (summarizing) and requisite skills (e.g., decoding, recalling, sequencing). The central focus for an upper elementary learning segment might be persuasive writing. The learning segment would focus on the essential literacy strategy (using evidence to support an argument) and requisite skills (e.g., writing paragraphs, using correct verb tense, or other conventions). See the Making Good Choices resource for suggestions on selecting your central focus.


commentary: Submitted as part of each task and, along with artifacts, make up your evidence. The commentaries should be written to explain the rationale behind your teaching decisions and to analyze and reflect on what you have learned about your teaching practice and your students’ learning.

developmental approximations: Include transitional spelling or other attempts to use skills or strategies just beyond a student’s current level/capability.

engaging students in learning: Using instructional and motivational strategies that promote students’ active involvement in learning tasks that increase their knowledge, skills, and abilities related to specific learning objectives. Engagement in learning contrasts with student participation in learning tasks that are not well designed and/or implemented and do not increase student learning.

essential literacy skills: Specific knowledge needed for reading and writing, including phonemic/phonological awareness; print concepts; decoding; word analysis; sight-word recognition; and spelling, punctuation, or other language conventions.

evaluation criteria: Performance indicators or dimensions that are used to assess evidence of student learning. They indicate the qualities by which levels of performance can be differentiated and that anchor judgments about the learner’s degree of success on an assessment. Evaluation criteria can be represented in various ways, such as a rubric, a point system for different levels of performance, or rules for awarding full versus partial credit. Evaluation criteria may examine correctness/accuracy, cognitive complexity, sophistication or elaboration of responses, or quality of explanations.

evidence: Consists of artifacts that document how you planned and implemented instruction AND commentaries that explain your plans and what is seen in the videorecording(s) or examine what you learned about your teaching practice and your students’ learning. Evidence should demonstrate your ability to design lesson plans with instructional supports that deepen student learning, use knowledge of your students to inform instruction, foster a positive learning environment that promotes student learning, monitor and assess student progress toward learning objectives, and analyze your teaching effectiveness. Your evidence must be submitted electronically using the electronic portfolio management system used by your teacher preparation program.

learning environment: The designed physical and emotional context, established and maintained throughout the learning segment to support a positive and productive learning experience for students.

learning objectives: Student learning outcomes to be achieved by the end of the lesson or learning segment.

learning segment: A set of 3–5 lessons that build one upon another toward a central focus, with a clearly defined beginning and end.

learning task: Includes activities, discussions, or other modes of participation that engage students to develop, practice, and apply skills and knowledge related to a specific learning goal. Learning tasks may be scaffolded to connect prior knowledge to new knowledge and often include formative assessment. A sample literacy learning task for fifth grade focused on writing an essay with an argument structure could be a discussion about a topic for which students have strong opinions (e.g., school uniforms) and draw from their everyday experiences constructing arguments to introduce the features of the genre. Over a unit of
instruction, the teacher models the various features, students read and analyze argument
text on a variety of topics, and develop their own argument essay.

**literacy strategy:** An approach selected deliberately by a reader or writer to comprehend or
compose text. When students are able to select and use strategies automatically, they have
achieved independence in using the strategy to accomplish reading and writing goals.
Example strategies for reading include summarizing or retelling, comparing and contrasting
firsthand and secondhand accounts of the same event, using evidence to predict,
interpreting character’s feelings, or drawing conclusions from informational text. Example
strategies for writing include organizing ideas before writing, note taking from informational
text to support drafting a topic, using graphic organizers to organize writing, using a rubric to
revise a draft, or using quotes as evidence to support an argument.

**misconceptions:** Include confusions about a strategy or skill (e.g., misunderstandings
about text purpose and structure, application of a skill, multiple meaning words).

**patterns of learning:** Includes both quantitative and qualitative consistencies for different
groups of students and individuals across the whole class. Quantitative patterns indicate the
number of similar correct responses or errors across or within student assessments.
Qualitative patterns include descriptions of understandings and/or misunderstandings,
partial understandings, and/or attempts at applying a strategy that underlies the quantitative
patterns.

**planned supports:** Instructional strategies, learning tasks and materials, and other
resources deliberately designed to facilitate student learning of the central focus.

**prior academic learning and prerequisite skills:** Includes students’ content knowledge
and skills as well as academic experiences developed prior to the learning segment.

**rapport:** A close and harmonious relationship in which the people or groups understand
each other’s feelings or ideas and communicate well with each other.

**reading/writing connections:** Support students’ literacy development through an explicit
understanding that many of the skills that are taught in reading instruction are also beneficial
to young writers. Students gain insight on how the processes of reading and writing are
interdependent, thereby reinforcing their understanding of the varied purposes of texts, how
texts are organized, how to make meaning from text, and how writers develop their craft.
Examples of learning tasks that support reading/writing connections include reading or
researching informational text to inform an essay; journal writing to make predictions;
making personal or text-to-text connections; writing book reviews or alternative endings to
stories; or writing in a style that emulates a model.

**requisite skills:** Literacy skills students will develop and practice while learning a literacy
strategy in the learning segment. Not to be confused with prerequisite skills, which are
developed before the learning segment begins.

**respect:** A positive feeling of esteem or deference for a person and specific actions and
conduct representative of that esteem. Respect can be a specific feeling of regard for the
actual qualities of the one respected. It can also be conduct in accord with a specific ethic of
respect. Rude conduct is usually considered to indicate a lack of respect, *disrespect*,
whereas actions that honor somebody or something indicate respect. Note that respectful
actions and conduct are culturally defined and may be context dependent.
rubrics: Subject-specific evaluation criteria used to score your performance on edTPA. These rubrics are included in the handbook following the directions for each task. The descriptors in the five-level rubrics address a wide range of performance, beginning with the knowledge and skills of a novice not ready to teach (Level 1) and extending to the advanced practices of a highly accomplished beginner (Level 5).

variety of learners: Students in your class who may require different strategies or support. These students include, but are not limited to, students with IEPs or 504 plans, English language learners, struggling readers, underperforming students or those with gaps in academic knowledge, and/or gifted students.