**Alabama Direct Assessment of Writing (ADAW)**

Primary Purposes:
- To assess students’ writing performance in descriptive, narrative, expository, and persuasive modes of discourse, thus encouraging writing in all four modes
- To report to the public regarding students’ writing performance in descriptive, narrative, expository, and persuasive modes of discourse

Content:
- Grade 5—Descriptive, narrative, and expository modes of writing
- Grade 7—Descriptive, narrative, expository, and persuasive modes of writing
- Grade 10—Narrative, expository, and persuasive modes of writing

Additional Information:
- The ADAW is administered in late February/early March.
- The assessment is timed.
- Scores are reported in the following manner:
  - Focused Holistic Score. This requires the reader to focus attention on a set of compositional characteristics (purpose, content, audience, and organization/clarity) and to assign scores based on the level of proficiency that the writer demonstrates in these areas.
  - Analytic Scores. These scores are given for writing mechanics, sentence formation, and grammar and usage.
- Performance is reported in the following achievement levels:
  - Level I: This writing shows little understanding of the writing task.
  - Level II: This writing reflects some understanding of the writing task but more author involvement than author control.
  - Level III: This writing indicates a good understanding of the writing task and is sufficiently developed with a sense of audience, purpose, and author control.
  - Level IV: This writing is thorough with a strong sense of audience and purpose and is precise, consistent, and elaborated with details that are clear and coherent.

Student Assessment Contact:
- Kanetra Germany at 334-242-8038 or kgermany@alsde.edu

For More Information:
- Test scores for schools, school systems, and state—Accountability Reporting: [http://www.alsde.edu/Accountability/preAccountability.asp](http://www.alsde.edu/Accountability/preAccountability.asp)
Annotated Writing Packets:
  o 2002-2003—
  o 2003-2004—
  o 2004-2005—
  o 2005-2006—