

Give Me a 6!

When it comes to the NJASK, what really matters?
WELL . . . here are some tips for getting the best score
possible on the writing sample.

1. PLAN: This is BY FAR THE MOST IMPORTANT STEP you can take towards achieving a high mark.



Brainstorm everything you can think of when you start so that all of your thoughts are fair game for your use.

2. TITLE: Title your writing so that it gives off a polished, well thought-out product. Even if you are not so confident in your writing, title it anyway.



Select an active title and not just a label.

Label Ex.) The Flood

Active Ex.) Raging Riptide Adventure

3. OPENING: Start off strong and get out of your opening very quickly. Here are some strong scoring tips:

- Dialogue: 2-4 sentences of dialogue. Not too much because you are not writing a play.
- Question: Raise a series of question because you are guaranteed to stay on task. Each question you ask can become the topic for each of your paragraphs to follow.
- Gross Exaggeration: Truly exaggerate on something (hyperbole) or use another compositional risk to start strong.
- Literary Reference: Quote a famous line or passage from a well known text.
 - Ex. "To be or not to be" . . .

4. BODY: This is the heart and meat of your response.



- Use compositional risks, dialogue, and vivid verbs.
- Give your characters and setting specific names
 - Avoid *the boy, the lady, or the town.*

5. REVISION: By the end of the writing session you will barely have enough time to do serious revision. However, there is one sure-fire way to improve your writing in the last few minutes.

- IMPROVE YOUR VERBS
 - Go back and make your verbs stronger.
 - Add adverbs to your verbs and your dialogue tags.

Honestly, the scorer only spends 45-60 seconds reading your work. They will never be able to fully appreciate all that you MEANT to say, so follow these tips and your important, high-scoring elements will be easily detected.

Simplified Rules:

- *Create a Strong but brief opening*
- *Elaborate the middle with vivid, specific verbs and nouns*
- *Use Compositional Risks followed by support and elaboration*

GOOD LUCK