



# 2007 NAEP Writing Pre-Release Briefing

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Informational and background data  
on the National Assessment of  
Educational Progress (NAEP)



# What is NAEP?

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- A national measure of student performance and how performance is changing over time.
- Students across the nation participate in the same assessment.
- The only tool that allows valid comparisons between a state and other states, or a state and the nation.
- Provides results for the nation and states.



# What are the NAEP achievement levels

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- National Assessment Governing Board (NAGB) sets achievement levels (*Basic, Proficient, and Advanced*) that describe what students should know and be able to do.
- These achievement levels are independent of any state achievement levels.

# Who is tested?

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- NAEP assesses a representative sample of 4th and 8th grade students from each state in reading and mathematics every other year. These assessments are required by NCLB.
- NAEP also assesses either science or writing in states, along with reading and mathematics, on a rotating calendar and voluntary basis.  
In 2007, the additional subject tested was writing
- NAEP also periodically samples 4th, 8th, and 12th grade students nationally in other subjects such as arts, U.S. history, civics, and economics.

## Who is tested? (cont')

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- Not every student takes NAEP, and each participating student takes only a portion of the test.
- Student participation in NAEP is voluntary. However, some states do require that their students participate if they are selected for NAEP.



# How is the writing test administered

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- Each student participating in the writing assessment received a booklet containing two 25-minute writing tasks.
- NAEP assesses students with disabilities and English language learners using most of the accommodations that states use on their tests.



# How is NAEP different from a state assessment?

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- State assessments are designed to reflect individual state content standards.
- Track progress toward state education goals.
- Measure school and district adequate yearly progress (AYP) under NCLB.
- Provide state, district, school, and individual student data.

# How is NAEP different from a state assessment? (cont'd.)

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- On state assessments, every student is assessed in each subject/content area.
- By contrast, NAEP selects a sample of students for testing in each subject.
- State assessments are an annual *census* of all students in all subjects, and NAEP reflects a bi-annual/representative sampling students and their responses.



## How is data collected and analyzed?

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- In eighth grade, about 1/3 of Wyoming's students were assessed in reading, mathematics, **and writing** respectively
- Writing was not assessed at fourth grade during 2007, i.e., as was done during 2002.
- Data are collected and analyzed by the US Department of Education and its contractors



# How are the results reported?

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- Report Cards: Detailed information on national student performance at grades 8 & 12 (state data at grade 8 only).
- Highlights: Brief popular summaries with graphics of main state results at grades 8 and national results at grades 8 & 12.
- Snapshots: Brief web-based reports of results for individual states or districts participating in NAEP.
- Web
  - NAEP Data Explorer: customized data queries
  - NAEP Questions Tool: released items and responses
  - NAEP Comparisons Tool: state-to-state comparisons (for grade 8, only)



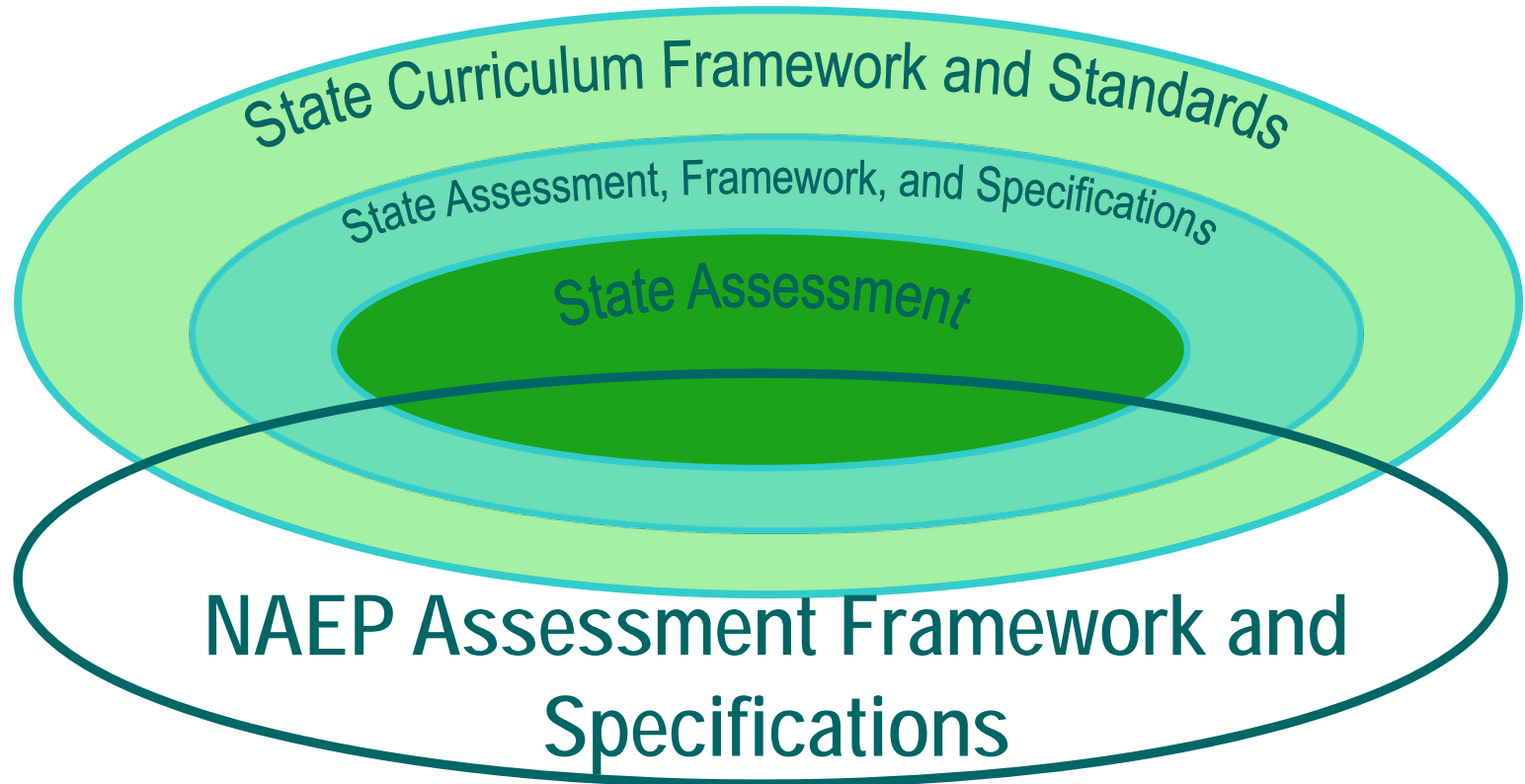
# How are the results used?

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- The President and Congress use NAEP results in setting education policy.
- State leaders and state educators use NAEP to compare their state with the nation and other states.
- Teachers can use NAEP assessment frameworks, sample questions, and scoring guides to help in designing lesson plans and tests.
- States are neither rewarded nor sanctioned based on their results

# What are frameworks and how does NAEP's differ from the state assessment

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Subject Area Domain

# NAEP Frameworks (cont.'d)

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- Frameworks describe the areas of knowledge and skill tested in NAEP
- For example, in NAEP Writing:

## Purposes for Writing

### **Narrative writing**

Narrative writing encourages writers to incorporate their imagination and creativity in the production of stories or personal essays. At its best, narrative writing fosters imagination, creativity, and speculation by allowing writers to express their thoughts and emotions, and offers an opportunity for writers to analyze and understand their actions and those of others.

### **Informative writing**

In informative writing, the writer provides the reader with information. Informative writing may involve reporting on events or experiences or analyzing concepts and relationships. When used as a means of exploration, informative writing helps both the writer and the reader to learn new ideas and to reexamine old conclusions.

### **Persuasive writing**

Persuasive writing seeks to persuade the reader to take action or to bring about change. This type of writing involves a clear awareness of what arguments might most affect the audience being addressed. Writing persuasively also requires the use of such skills as analysis, inference, synthesis, and evaluation.



## What to look for in report and website.

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- Two forms of reporting – report and website.
- Report provides an overview of specific areas of a state or national achievement
- Website provides comparison tools and question resources to examine the test and results more in-depth.
- Follow along on example



# Wyoming's writing results from 2002

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- Scores showed an increase in eighth grade writing from the previous assessment given in 1998.
- Wyoming students performed statistically the same as the national average in eighth grade writing in 2002. This was also the case in 1998.
- Wyoming's average scale in eighth grade writing was 146 in 1998 and increased to 151 in 2002.
  - The national eighth grade average score was in 2002 was 152.



# Release Date and Time

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- Thursday April 3rd 1:30 p.m.
- Press conference and conference call