PSSA, Grade 5 ELA

The Crane Wife

Handscoring Nonscorable Codes
# PENNSYLVANIA NONSCORABLE CODES

**Writing prompts and TDA questions (items without zero as a valid score point):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nonscoreable Code</th>
<th>Definition/Example/Notes</th>
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| B – Blank         | Completely blank response. This includes responses that:  
|                   | • Are completely erased (so that words are unreadable)  
|                   | • Are completely crossed out (so that words are unreadable)  
|                   | • Online responses that consist solely of “white space” (e.g., spaces, tabs, returns) |
| R – Refusal       | Response indicates a refusal to attempt the task. This includes:  
|                   | • I don’t care; I’m not taking this test; This is stupid; I won’t do it; you can’t make me answer this question  
|                   | • I don’t know; IDK; we never learned this; X; NA  
|                   | • Unrelated song lyrics/rap lyrics/poetry (e.g., the lyrics to Hotel California in answer to a writing prompt asking whether backpacks should be allowed in class)  
|                   | • Intentionally off-task response (e.g., a detailed description of what the student ate for breakfast that morning in answer to a question about Mozart’s childhood)  
|                   | This also includes responses that consist solely of scribbles, random keystrokes (yyyyyyy, av:aeoihv;e, hhrttttuvv), indecipherable writing/keystrokes (swensts mngenststes arawnstets) emoticons, stray marks, doodles, drawings, circles, underlines, a couple of random letters (not a word), or other evidence that no attempt was made to address the task. |
| N – Nonscoreable  | This category includes:  
|                   | • Responses written entirely in a language other than English.  
|                   | • Responses that are completely illegible due to poor handwriting.*  
|                   | • Online or typed responses that are incoherent due to consisting of incomprehensible strings of words that are not clearly a Refusal or Off Topic (e.g., best day school teacher inspired so I car)  
|                   | • Responses too insufficient to be assessed by the criteria on the rubric.  
|                   | • For TDAs only: responses that address some part of the question, but do not contain any logical/accurate/relevant reference to the passage(s) or any ideas contained in the passage(s).  
|                   | • For TDAs only: responses that consist solely, or almost solely, of text copied directly from the passage(s).  
|                   | * If a response is difficult to read, every effort is made to read the response. Multiple people, including a Team Leader and/or a Scoring Director, will attempt to decipher the response, and the original answer document will be reviewed if necessary. If, ultimately, only a portion of the response is legible, that verbiage will be scored on its own merits. |
| T – Off Topic     | Response makes no reference to the item or (if applicable) the passage provided, but does not seem to constitute an intentional refusal.  
|                   | If any part of the response relates to the item in any way, score the response. |
| C – Copied item/directions | Responses consisting of text copied from the item and/or test directions. |

**Note:** Crossed out, but legible/partially legible, responses are scored according to the rubric based on whatever verbiage is legible.