

VOCABULARY STUDY
for the
NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF ADULT LITERACY

Expert Panel Meeting
October 24, 2006

Location: American Institutes of Research
1000 Thomas Jefferson Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20007
(Note: Check in with the receptionist in the lobby and say that you are part of Elizabeth Greenberg's NAAL meeting. The receptionist will direct you to the appropriate conference room)

Agenda

- 9:30-9:40 Welcome & Introductions
- 9:45-10:15 Overview of the NAAL
- 10:15-10:45 Framework Paper (general discussion by panelists)
- 10:45-11:00 BREAK
- 11:00-12:15 Overview of the Item Types
- 12:15-1:00 Lunch
- 1:00-1:30 Conference Call with Dr. George Miller
- 1:45-2:45 Pros and Cons of the Two Item Types *(see Questions 1 & 2, p. 2)*
Discussion by Panel
- Discussion of the Match Items
 - Discussion of the Combo Items
 - Recommendations re Item Types
- 2:45-3:00 BREAK
- 3:00-4:00 Improving the Items *(see Question 3 p. 2)*
Discussion by Panel
- 4:00-4:30 Wrap-Up

Issues & Questions for the Consideration of the Panelists

1. The two item types
 - a. Match items
 - What do they measure? Is it useful? Do we want them?
 - Can it reasonably be expected that these items will validly and reliably measure vocabulary breadth?
 - Can it reasonably be expected that these items will validly and reliably measure vocabulary depth?
 - Can it reasonably be expected that these items will return information across the full range of proficiencies represented by the U.S. adult population?
 - Do we want these items?
 - b. Combination items
 - What do they measure? Is it useful? Do we want them?
 - Can it reasonably be expected that these items will validly and reliably measure vocabulary breadth?
 - Can it reasonably be expected that these items will validly and reliably measure vocabulary depth?
 - Can it reasonably be expected that these items will return information across the full range of proficiencies represented by the U.S. adult population?
2. If you could choose only one of these two item types, which would it be, why, and how firm is your preference?
3. The items themselves – are there ways in which improvements can be made in the items themselves or the heuristics used in constructing them?
 - Is the item format appropriate?
 - Is the strategy for sampling words across the range of familiarity/frequency appropriate?
 - Is the strategy for selecting clusters of words within an item appropriate?
 - Is the strategy for selecting foils for the items appropriate?