

Dissecting Descriptions

Rationale: Using information about the assessment center prompts provided by the National Board will help candidates prepare and feel more resourceful. This activity provides a scaffold for candidates to use in transcribing NB language into action plans for study and preparation.



Management

Time: 30 minutes

Materials: 6 copies of handout WS9.A2.H1 for each participant; each candidate will need exercise descriptions for his/her certificate area (available online from NB site at http://www.nbpts.org/for_candidates/assessment/prepare_for_your_appoint); highlighters.

Equipment: None required. LCD & computer optional if using WS9 PowerPoint.

Grouping: Group by certificate areas, if possible

Outcomes:

- Participants will have a list of resources to consult to prepare for the assessment center.
- Participants will have a better understanding of what they know and need to learn about topics covered at the assessment center.

Instructions to NB Candidate Support Provider:

1. Review the description for the first assessment center exercise. Highlight key terms. (3 minutes)
2. With a partner, or in cohort groups, have each candidate rephrase what they will need to know and write about for this exercise. (3-10 minutes)
3. Have candidates fill in a worksheet (WS9.A2.H1) for the first exercise description. (3 minutes)
4. With a partner, or in cohort groups, talk about plans and resources. Encourage brainstorming among participants to add to action plans and/or resources. (5-15 minutes)
5. Repeat, as time permits, for each of the 6 exercise descriptions.

Processing:

- What resources might prove most valuable in preparing for the assessment center.

Journal:

How might you rank the exercises in terms of those that require the least amount of preparation to those that require the most and what do you need to commit to at this point to feel prepared?

Follow-up:

Read: NB [Assessment Center Orientation: Policy and Guidelines](#) and [NB Scoring Guide](#) available on the NB site at: http://www.nbpts.org/for_candidates/assessment/prepare_for_your_appoint.

