

OVERVIEW

We have reviewed the **New Jersey Registered Holistic Scoring Rubric for the writing portion of the New Jersey High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA)**. This scoring rubric indicates that student essays will be assessed for correct usage, sentence construction, and mechanics.

Under **correct usage**, the skills assessed are tense formation; subject-verb agreement; pronoun usage and agreement; word choice and meaning; and proper modifiers. As the attached correlation chart indicates, *Written Communication for Sergeants: A Self-Paced Text* teaches each of these skills.

Under **sentence construction**, the skills assessed are the ability to use a variety of formations and the ability to correctly construct sentences. As the attached correlation chart indicates, *Written Communication for Sergeants: A Self-Paced Text* teaches each of these skills.

Under **mechanics**, the skills required are competent spelling; capitalization; and punctuation. As the attached correlation chart indicates, *Written Communication for Sergeants: A Self-Paced Text* teaches each of these skills.

Written Communication for Sergeants: A Self-Paced Text does not directly address the skills listed under **content/organization**. (The follow-on text, which teaches paragraph skills, does address these skills directly.) However, the sergeants' text does teach students to write focused, clear sentences and to use appropriate transitions in forming these sentences. These skills are the foundation for the unity and coherence skills required on the scoring rubric.

We have also reviewed the **sample passage that students are required to revise and edit**. This sample contains approximately twenty-five technical errors. However, the first thing the students should do when revising this passage is to rewrite each sentence for clarity and correctness. This is the skill that *Written Communication for Sergeants: A Self-Paced Text* teaches. If students understand how to turn this passage into correct, clear sentences, they can correct all of the errors except for the four spelling errors.

**CORRELATION OF HSPA WRITING SKILLS TEST
FOR NEW JERSEY AND
WRITTEN COMMUNICATION FOR SERGEANTS:
A SELF-PACED TEXT**

HSPA WRITING SKILL	REFERENCE
Clarity of expression	All units
Variety of sentence formations	Units 2, 6, and 8
Tense formation	Unit 5
Subject and verb agreement	Unit 4
Pronoun usage and agreement	Unit 1 and 7
Words choice/meaning	Unit 1
Proper modifiers	Units 1 and 6
Correct construction of sentences	Units 2, 3 and 6
Spelling	Unit 4 (formation of plurals)
Capitalization	Unit 9
Punctuation	Unit 8