

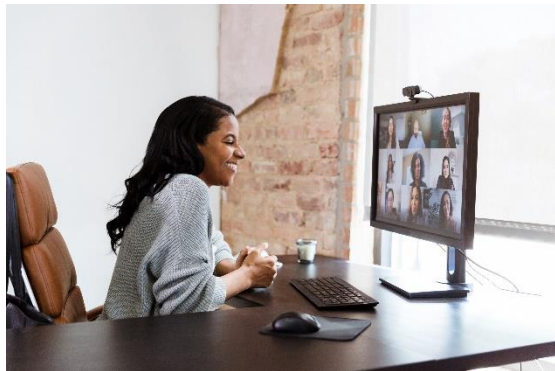
One Day in the Life of a National Board Assessor Working at Home

With Thanks to Suzanne May Nelson, NBCT

7:15: I wake up, make a pot of coffee, put on a “Zoom ready” outfit, nice shirt, and leggings for comfort, and enjoy some quiet time. I usually listen to a podcast or audiobook since I will be reading responses for the next few hours, so I enjoy doing something a little different first.



7:50: I go to my home office, where it is quiet, and I can maintain security as I score, then log on for my morning meeting. The team usually chats about anything unrelated to scoring until 8 am, when our day officially starts. Those of us with pets will usually have them say hi on camera to the group. It is a good way to get to know my scoring team better!



8:00: Our trainer starts the meeting, and the team is logged in with cameras on. We discuss alignment and productivity. Now is the time to ask any clarifying questions. One scorer asks about a particular issue of alignment with the rubric. We do a deep dive into the anchor sets and get the perspective of all of the team members. This really helps with accuracy and my own understanding. We are reminded to take our time and reference the rubric.

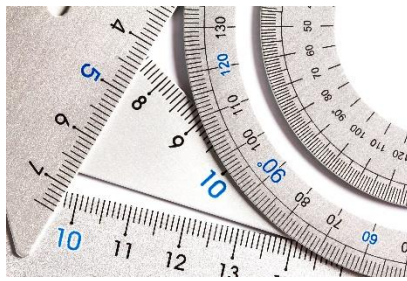
Our trainer releases us to score. I like to turn off my sound and camera but (as required!) stay connected to the meeting; this way, if I have any questions or we need to meet as a team, I can seamlessly transition from scoring to a (usually) brief meeting. Also, messages may pop up from our trainer.

8:30: Time to begin scoring. I click “score student responses” and read my first submission. As I read, I am looking to see how the candidate answers the prompt, observing where the writer addresses specifics. I then review the rubric to see where the candidate falls and submit a score.

9:00: Time for a short mental break. I pet my dog, who is my scoring companion. I move to my comfy chair since the morning will be mostly scoring. Changing seating helps me focus. I feel refreshed and continue scoring responses.



10:00: A note pops up from our trainer reminding us to take a 15-minute break when needed. I take that as my cue and log out of the scoring system. I get my second cup of coffee and make a snack. It feels good to just walk around a bit.



10:15: Back to scoring. I take a moment to review the anchor papers. This helps me with accuracy and also gives me a moment to collect my thoughts and refresh before beginning to score responses.



11:30-Noon: My much-needed lunch break. Some food, play with the dog and clear my head a bit.

Noon-12:30: Quick meeting online with the team, cameras on. We are 90% of the way through the responses on this exercise, and our scoring aligns well. We will score until we are “out.”

12:30-1:15: Scoring until I get a pop-up message that I am out of work. I take a break, listen to some music, and wait for my team members to finish. Around 1:40, our trainer says we are done with the exercise. We will take our afternoon break, then meet as a team at 2.

2:00: We meet again as a team, camera on. It is good to see everyone as we celebrate being done with an exercise. Time to train for the next prompt. This will last for the next 2.5 hours. We will read the prompt, the rubric and anchor papers, stopping to discuss them as a team. We practice qualifying and discuss further our understanding of the prompt, responses and rubric; cameras are on and off. As we read, I turn off my camera (no one wants to see me read, right?). Tomorrow will be the actual qualifying papers, after which we will begin scoring.

4:30: Logging out of the meeting. I say good night to my team. Time to refresh and get ready for tomorrow.



Scoring for the National Board is hard but rewarding work. I score because:

I want to support other teachers in their quest to improve their practice.

The rich discussions I have with my fellow scorers improve my practice.

Reading responses exposes me to new ideas and innovative pedagogy.

The colleagues I have met, in person and virtually, have become friends, and I look forward to seeing the familiar faces each summer as we spend two weeks committed to being the best educators we can be and supporting others to elevate their practice.

