



## • Tests of Reading and Writing • Are they Worth the Paper?

Note  
change  
of  
date!!

**Presenter: Melissa Farrall, Ph.D.**

*Author of: Reading Assessment: Linking Language, Literacy & Cognition*

The field of assessment is rife with complaints about reading comprehension tests (RAND, 2002). Critics claim that reading tests oversimplify the factors that contribute to reading comprehension, and that they do not clearly identify the skills that need to be taught. Critics also note that it is not unusual for tests of reading comprehension to be treated as though they were all the same despite differences in structure, language, and content. Tests of written language are notorious for their lack of consistency, their limited sample of skills, and for providing scores that may not reflect a student's ability to be successful in the classroom. It is not unusual for older students to earn average scores on writing tests when they cannot write a book report or an essay in a social studies class.

This workshop will present a top-down approach to testing as a foundation for conducting reading and writing assessments that are both efficient and informative. Participants will:

- Compare and contrast standardized tests such as the Kaufman Test of Educational Achievement, Wechsler Individual Achievement Test, Woodcock-Johnson IV, Test of Written Language, Test of Reading Comprehension, Gray Oral Reading Tests, and others with an eye towards small differences in each test's design that can have large consequences for how students perform.
- Look at how the publisher's view of reading affects passage quality, and how question-types provide a window into the mind of the reader.
- Examine writing tests with respect to their use of prompts, the balance of skills measured, and how responses are scored.
- Learn how to select tests and interpret findings with a critical eye as a prelude to making meaningful recommendations.

**Dates:** ~~December 2, 2016~~ **Changed to  
April 7, 2017**

**Place:** Capitol Plaza  
Montpelier, VT

**Cost:** \$190 (lunch included)

**Time:** 8:30-3:30



Learn more and register at: <http://www.vthec.org>