

**Southwest Vermont Science Task Review Team  
Training  
November 14, 2005**

**On November 14, 2005, Gail Hall, conducted a science task review training from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Attached is a spread sheet of people who attended the meeting.**

**The meeting started with an overview of the history of the development of the committee. For the past two years, the SW VT Curriculum Coordinators have offered a course called the Science Assessment Institute. People who have taken this course have developed performance assessment tasks which have been piloted in classrooms and with review could be used for local assessment. The state had also released its GCEs in science and has directed schools to have local assessments. If these assessments and professional development opportunities are shared, then the work in each supervisory union is not duplicated. Thus, the SW VT Science Steering Committee was developed to help coordinate this effort. This committee wanted to have developed tasks on-line for use by teachers. The Science Task Review Team has been established to ensure the quality of the tasks that would be put on-line.**

**The task review training involved the following:**

- **Background on classroom assessment and its connection to teaching**
- **Purpose of local assessment needs to be decided in each school**
- **Task development protocol**
  - **Depths of knowledge**
  - **Universal design**
  - **GE alignment**
  - **Scoring guide development**
  - **Scaffolding of tasks**
- **Tri-state assessment being developed**

- **Fall 2006-targets for test released**
- **3 hour, 3 day assessment**
  - **A percent of the questions and inquiry released each year**
  - **Day 1- Short answer, MC – Physical and Earth and Space Science**
  - **Day 2 – Short answer, MC – Life and Earth and Space Science**
  - **Day 3**
    - **K-4: Similar to PASS-Collect and analyze data**
    - **HS: Data sets given, students analyze; perhaps ask students to design; maybe hands-on from a video**
    - **ML: Morph between HS and K-4**

**Using a Assessment Task Analysis Protocol, the team then reviewed items in an assessment task to experience using the protocol.**

**The training brought up the following questions and discussion (in red) for the team.**

- **Should the tasks be piloted first?**
- **Do we want student work with task proposal?**
  - **Task should have Task Development Template attached to each item**
  - **Developer should also attach any other standard that they have applied in the assessment so that reviewers understand**
  - **The developer must show some evidence that the question meets the GCE and show that the student understands the GE through their answer to the task question.**
    - **Summary of student answers**
    - **Samples of student work**

- **Should the work meet specific criteria before this group does the review?**
- **What is the purpose of this initiative?**
  - **To improve student learning**
  - **To get tasks on line**
  - **To help teachers improve their assessment development techniques**
- **Should there be a checklist of criteria for submitted tasks?**
  - **See red above.**

**The task review training ended with closure questions being done by individuals.**

**1. What new ideas have I had today about Science Assessment task organization and effective ways to assess key content ideas?**

- **How can local learning communities mirror this process?**
- **It is very involved. I liked the process-needed more time to get into it.**
- **I think that the review process we are working on is very valuable. As a result of today's work, I will be looking much closer at my own assessments.**
- **A form for piloted tasks will help the reader committee evaluate them.**
- **I have a better vision of what our goal(s) are as a committee.**

**2. What additional questions do I have about the Science Assessment review process?**

- **Usefulness of single question items to evaluate specific GEs?**
- **What is the best way to insure teacher involvement/development of local assessments?**

- **Frequency? How often will we meet? Scale? How many tasks may be reviewed? Scope? Performance/Summative/Formative**

**Following the task review training session, Jean Ward, Gail Hall, and Lynne Blair met to debrief the training. We propose to the steering committee that a workable approach that could be gradually expanded and improved upon would be to select tasks developed from the Science Assessment Institute course to review for the March round. That would give the review committee a better handle on criteria that the review committee would expect in a task to be reviewed and the quantity of items that could be reviewed in a one day session.**

**Our next meeting date to review tasks will be March 22 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Bennington Rutland Supervisory Union Offices.**

**From South:**

**Route 7 to Manchester Center exit  
Turn left off ramp  
At first light, turn left onto Richville Rd.  
Go over the railroad tracks  
Turn right onto Lincoln Ave.  
Building on left after 3<sup>rd</sup> house**

**From North:**

**Route 7 to Manchester Center exit  
Turn right off ramp  
At first light, turn left onto Richville Rd.  
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Building on left after 3<sup>rd</sup> house**