



Session Objectives



- Address some of the most frequently asked questions about the GED® test
- Review student performance on the test
- Explore tools for the classroom
- Share resources from the GED.com Website

3



I really want to know...



4

Content Alignment

How was the test content determined?

- The GED® test was designed to reflect college and career readiness standards
 - Crosswalks show alignment between GED Assessment Targets and most major CCR standards (e.g., State content standards, Adult Ed CCR, etc.)
 - External alignment study from WestEd demonstrates alignment between the test and Adult Ed CCR.

5



Test Structure

How many questions do my students need to answer correctly in order to pass with a score of 145?

We don't share that information because it can

- Differ slightly from form to form and
- Differ slightly by content area

However, the *minimum* HSE requires ~40% of the total score points

6



Test Structure

What's the difference between "raw score points" and "scaled score points"?

- Each test form has between about 40 and 65 raw score points, *roughly* corresponding to the number of items
 - Test forms meet detailed blueprints and difficulty specifications
 - Forms are very similar in raw score difficulty but rarely exact
- Transformation to "scaled scores" allows
 - Comparability of test performance – test score represents same level of performance, no matter what form was taken or when it was taken
 - Ease of test score comparison between content areas

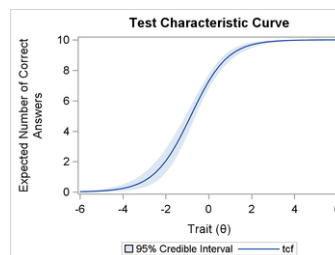


7

Test Structure

How do I know that all test forms are equivalent, especially when a student tells me that one form seems harder/easier than another?

- Test forms all match same blueprint and specifications
- "Test characteristic curves" demonstrate this match across forms
- But content within each reporting category is "sampled"
 - So one form might have a content sample that is more or less familiar to a particular test-taker
 - This may lead to different learner perceptions of the test, even though the test forms are equivalent



8

Spanish Language Forms

Are the Spanish test forms equivalent to the English forms?

- Yes, the Spanish forms are direct (not “literal”) translations of the sense and meaning of the English forms
 - The RLA editing passages are the only exception to this (RLA Spanish test is 8 raw score points shorter than the English test)
 - The forms are all equated and the scaled scores have the same meaning regardless of language



9

Spanish Language Forms

How do candidates who test in Spanish perform vs. those who test in English?

Spanish testers represent only ~5% of total testers

Differences are attributable to

- Overall less instruction in native language
- Fewer Spanish instructional materials

Test	Spanish Pass Rate	English Pass Rate
RLA	78%	89%
Social Studies	71%	88%
Science	73%	90%
Math	64%	81%
Battery	65%	81%



10

Constructed response items and scoring

Can a student pass the RLA test and score 0 on the
Extended Response item?

Yes, that is *possible*, but most test-takers who pass at HSE do
get some score points

- The ER is designed to measure skills at the higher HSE levels and
CCR levels
- Many test-takers still do not understand the ER task
 - GEDTS is implementing revised ER instructions for students in 2019 – more
details will be shared during this conference

11



Constructed Response Items and Scoring

Why should I spend time on teaching writing skills if students
don't need many points on writing to pass the test?

Writing skills are one of the critical differentiators of long-term
success

- Any score point earned counts towards the overall score
- Building skills in this area helps develop thinking skills that impact
performance on the entire test

12



Constructed Response Items and Scoring

How does the computer score the Extended Response item?
What is it looking for?

The automated scoring engine catalogs the characteristics of a writing sample; it then

- Compares those characteristics to thousands of real student responses with known scores
- Assigns a score based on similarity to existing exemplars
 - If no similar responses found, ER is human-scored
- About 97% of student responses are scored by the automated engine

13



Testing in Science

Can I drop some of the topics I have been covering now that there are no short answer items on the Science test?

No, The Science test still covers the same content as it has always covered

- The same content is tested today, but knowledge is determined by using the other technology enhanced items
- Understanding scientific investigation/method and experimentation are still evaluated in the test through other methods

14



Testing in Mathematical Reasoning

Are students allowed to use the calculator on all items on the math test?

No, students are not allowed to use the calculator on the first section of the math test which includes approximately 5 items.

The first several questions assess various concepts in number sense and computation, including

- Ordering fractions/decimals
- Applying number properties involved multiples and factors
- Working with exponents, squares, square roots, cubes, and cube roots
- Identifying absolute value
- Adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing rational numbers
- Determining when a numerical expression is undefined

15



Exploring the Data

What does the data tell us?

16





“

“To build the educated and
employed communities
of tomorrow.....
.....one student at a time.”

”

2014 GED® Program Goal

17



It is more than a test; it is a program!



To enhance
instruction so
students are
ready for
postsecondary
education and/or
workforce training
program



To ensure that
students have the
knowledge and
skills necessary to
earn a high school
equivalency
credential



To provide
instructors and
test-takers with
information they
can use to
enhance
performance

18



National Pass Rate—a comparison

Test Series	Year	Pass Rate
2002	2013	76%
2014	2017	79%

Students are passing the 2014 series test at a higher pass rate than the 2002 series test



2017 National Data: What We Know of Student Successes

Facts	Numbers
Test-takers	289,576
Completers	184,354
Passers	143,973
Pass rates	79%

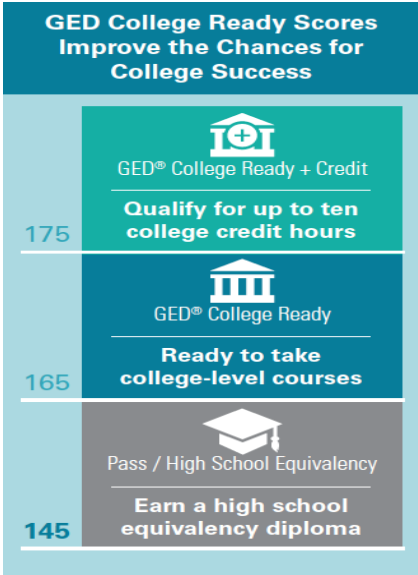


Average Passing Scores

GED® Tests	Math	RLA	Science	Social Studies
Average Passing Score	154	155	157	156
Average Non-Passing Score	141	140	141	139



Scoring of the GED® Test



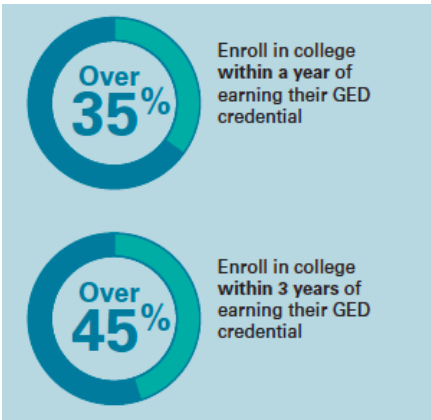
National Test-taker Data: 2014-2018

	Math	RLA	Science	Social Studies	Battery - First Attempt	Battery - Multiple Attempts
Passed (145 or higher)	84%	89%	92%	90%	61%	85%
College Ready (165 or higher)	7%	12%	11%	14%	20% in at least one content.	
College Ready+ Credit (175 or higher)	2%	2%	2%	3%	5% in at least one content.	

23



Postsecondary Activity & Outcomes

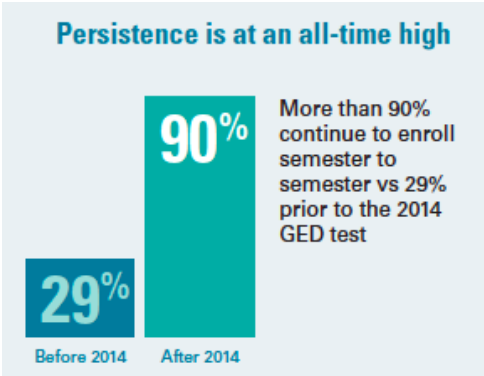


Based on data matches with National Student Clearinghouse (up to Fall 2017)

24



Persistence!



- Congrats, all your hard work is paying off!
- This number currently surpasses overall community college persistence rates



25

Research Highlights

Students enrolled in PSE had a mean GED 160 score across content areas

3 out of 4 students enroll in 2-year institutions

24% enrolled in liberal arts programs

4% in technology programs

7% enrolled in health-related programs

7% in business programs

**How do we
ensure that more
students are
“likely to pass”
the GED® test?**

Tools for the Classroom

27





GED Ready®

The best predictor of readiness!

28





GED Ready®

Realistic practice opportunity	Computer based and same platform as GED® test
Standardized and normed	Same norming and standardization study as official test
Predictive	Tells students if they are likely to pass
Half-length	4.25 hours in length

29



GED Ready®

- Feedback and links to study suggestions (focused study plans)
- Instructional feedback – extended response (RLA) scored by adult educators
- Online scoring tools (provide writing scores, feedback, and suggestions for improvement)

30



Three Score Level Indicators on GED Ready®

Not Likely to Pass	Too Close to Call	Likely to Pass
100-133	134-144	145-200

31



Dashboard

The screenshot shows the GED Ready dashboard in a web browser. The URL is <https://ged.com/portal#/dashboard>. The navigation bar includes links for Dashboard, About the Test, Study, Test Tips, Where to Test, Schedule Test, My Scores (highlighted with a red box), and College & Careers. Below the navigation bar, there's a section titled "What's Next?" with a message: "You're eligible to take the test. Schedule today." Below this, there are tabs for Language Arts, Science, Social Studies (selected), and Math. The main content area for Social Studies displays the GED Ready logo, a bar chart icon, and the text: "Score: 138 - Too Close to Call Date Taken: 04/07/2017". It also states: "You're only 1-3 questions away from passing. Get your detailed score report by clicking the 'See my score report' button." There are two buttons: "See my score report?" and "Take GED Ready® again".

32



My Scores / Scores

MyGED® : Scores

Secure | https://ged.com/portal#/scores

DashboardAbout the TestStudyTest TipsWhere to TestSchedule TestMy ScoresCollege & Careers

Scores

Share my scores/Find a Prep ProgramPrintBack to Dashboard

Mathematical Reasoning	Reasoning Through Language Arts	Science	Social Studies
Highest Score: Not Taken Test Date: Not Taken PrepareSchedule Test	Highest Score: Not Taken Test Date: Not Taken PrepareSchedule Test	Highest Score: Not Taken Test Date: Not Taken PrepareSchedule Test	Highest Score: Not Taken Test Date: Not Taken PrepareSchedule Test

Useful Links:What is the Discounted Retake Program?View all my scoresLearn about scores

GED Ready® : The Official Practice Test

Are you GED Ready®? Find out with our official practice test. Take one subject at a time or all four and build your confidence for test day.

Mathematical Reasoning	Reasoning Through Language Arts	Science	Social Studies
Status: Likely to Pass View Results Take GED Ready®	Status: Not Likely to Pass View Results Take GED Ready®	Status: Likely to Pass View Results Take GED Ready®	Status: Too Close to Call View Results Take GED Ready®



33

My Score Report

MyGED® : Score Report

Secure | https://ged.com/portal#/scoreReport?examResultId=5855578

GED Ready® - Science

PrintBack to Scores

My Score: 147

LIKELY TO PASS

Test Date: 01/16/2017

Share my scores/Find a Prep Program

100134147180200

Not Likely to PassToo Close to CallLikely to Pass

How I Can Score HigherWhat My Score MeansMy Written Answers

Step 1Select your study material to create a customized study plan based on your answers:

Kaplan GED 2015 Strategies, Practice, and Review by New Readers Press

Kaplan GED 2015 Strategies, Practice, and Review by New Readers Press
by New Readers Press
This book provides comprehensive content review, strategies, and two full-length practice tests, one in the book and one online.

Step 2Use the study material selected above to improve your skills listed below.

(All 3 tabs)

(Step 2 of study plan)



34

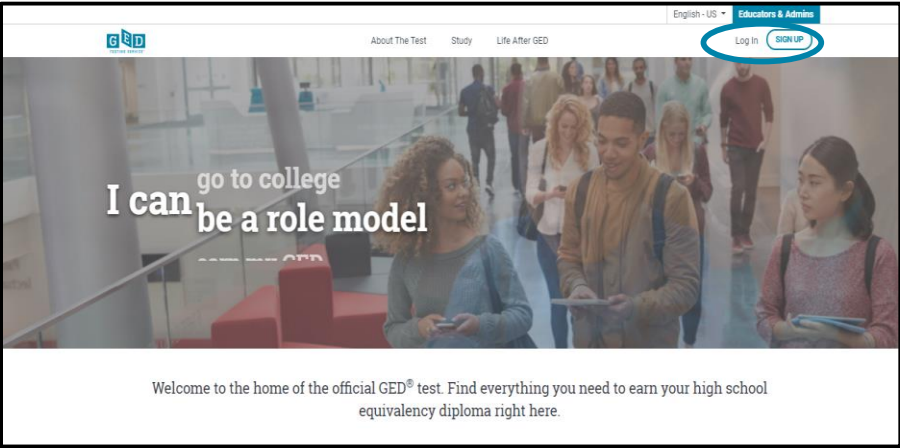
Take Advantage of the Redesigned Website

It's more than just a place to register for the test!



35

New Home for All Things GED®



<https://ged.com/>



6

New Website Launched May 2018

- Focus is to improve student experience for:
 - Engagement
 - Persistence
 - Long-term, sustained outcomes
- Because one size doesn't fit all:
 - we continue to highlight adult education, because we understand that teacher support is invaluable
 - we also have options for the 70% of people (nationally) who want to pursue a GED® on their own
- Findings:
 - Extremely positive response from students

37



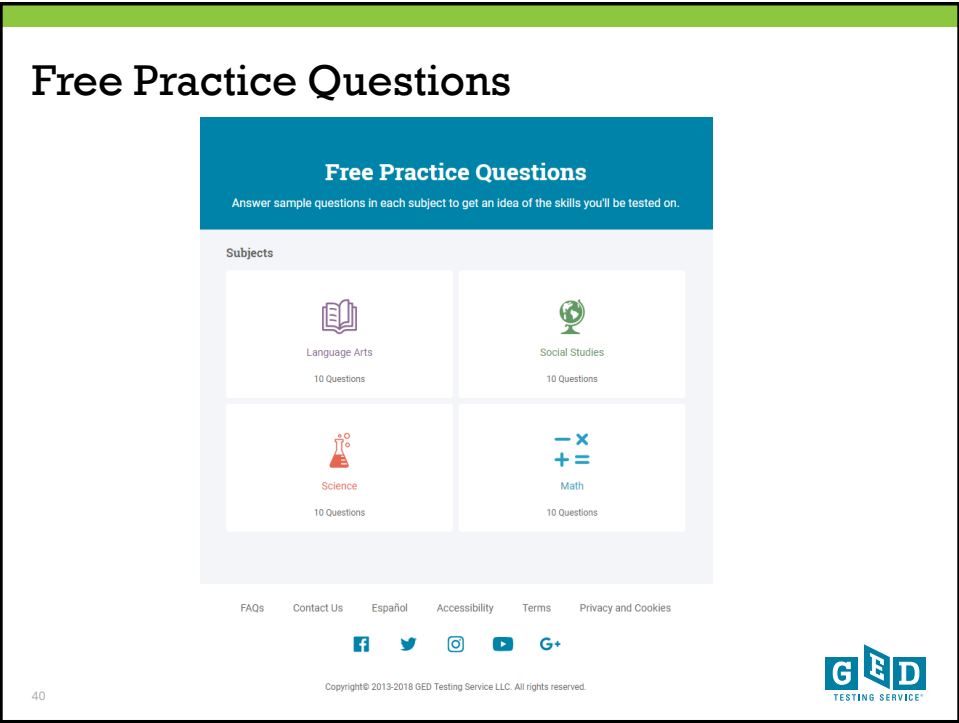
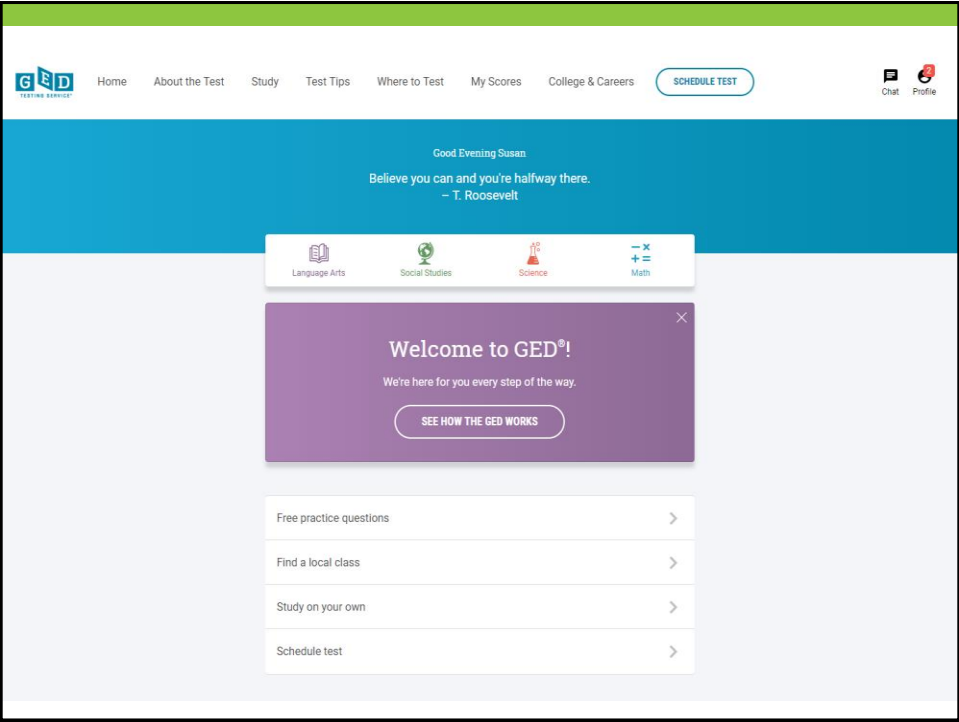
Give Students What They Need...

At the time they need it:

1. **Action (visible) guidance:**
Instructions and clarity on how *they* can earn their GED
2. **Behavioral (non-visible) guidance:** Help people do what they already want to do

38





Language Arts Sample Question

Language Arts Question 1 of 18

Which quotation from the passage supports the idea that Suppet is teaching the narrator a skill that requires patience?

I will be too busy to drink.

Each step was exaggerated and painfully slow.

When we were boys we practiced with rhinoceroses when they were asleep.

The tribe taught me to stalk many other animals.

SUBMIT

Lessons on the Savanna
by Richard Smith

1. "I'm not so worried about time anymore," I said.

2. He smiled. "Good! You are making progress. Come with me."

3. He led me to a tree not far from the camp.

4. "You must climb as high as you can and find a comfortable branch where you can look out over the savanna." He handed me the water gourd. "You will need this."

5. I took the gourd. "What about you?"

6. "I will be too busy to drink," he said.

7. I didn't know what he meant by this, but I climbed the bone-dry tree anyway and found a large branch near the top that was comfortable.

8. "Can you see the grass of the savanna?" Suppet yelled up to me.

9. "Yes," I shouted back.

10. "Good! What else do you see?"

11. Here we go again, I thought. I looked carefully. Shimmering waves of heat created mirages in the distance. I saw three kopjes within a half mile of each other. Trees dotted the landscape, and there were several small groups of animals grazing on the dry grass of the savanna. About a hundred and fifty yards away, a herd of zebras took advantage of the shade of an acacia tree. A few hundred feet past the herd were a few more trees and underneath them were two rhinoceroses sleeping. I told Suppet what I saw.

41



[Home](#) [About the Test](#) [Study](#) [Test Tips](#) [Where to Test](#) [My Scores](#) [College & Careers](#) [SCHEDULE TEST](#)

[Chat](#) [Profile](#)

Find GED® Classes

Find your local GED® Test Prep Center to see if they offer discounts on study materials, classes, or the test.

Enter your zip/postal code or address

28712

Find

Blue Ridge Community College
180 West Campus Drive Flat Rock, NC 28731
Phone: 828-692-2441
20.8 Miles [Show on Map | Directions](#)

Southwestern Community College
447 College Drive Sylva, NC 28779
Phone: 828-339-4613
25.8 Miles [Show on Map | Directions](#)

Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College
340 Victoria Road Asheville, NC 28801
Phone: 828-398-7488 x 7433
27.3 Miles [Show on Map | Directions](#)

Pickens Adult Learning Center
106 Glazner Street Easley, SC 29640
Phone: 864-397-3825
28.5 Miles [Show on Map | Directions](#)

★ If I see this star above, what does it mean?

Can't find your center? Ask them to visit gedtestingservice.com/prep to be added. In the meantime, you can print your score report and share it with your teacher.

The adult education or prep centers listed are independent third parties and provided for your convenience. GED Testing Service has no partnership or agreement with the centers. You should review the centers on your own to make sure you find the support that is right for you.

[FAQs](#) [Contact Us](#) [Español](#) [Accessibility](#) [Terms](#) [Privacy and Cookies](#)

42

© Copyright GED Testing Service LLC. All rights reserved.

21

Study Guides

These simple study guides will give you an overview of the topics on each test.

You don't need to know everything in this guide. If you want to see how close you are to passing, take the GED Ready® practice test.

Got It

Language Arts

Intro to the Language Arts Test
6 skills

Reading for Meaning
4 skills

Identifying and Creating Arguments
4 skills

Grammar and Language
4 skills

Social Studies

Intro to the Social Studies Test
5 skills

Reading for Meaning in Social Studies
4 skills

Analyzing Historical Events and Arguments in Social Studies
4 skills

Using Numbers and Graphs in Social Studies
4 skills



43

Take Advantage of the New Content Tools and Resources

- GED Live
- GED *Flash*
- RLA Videos





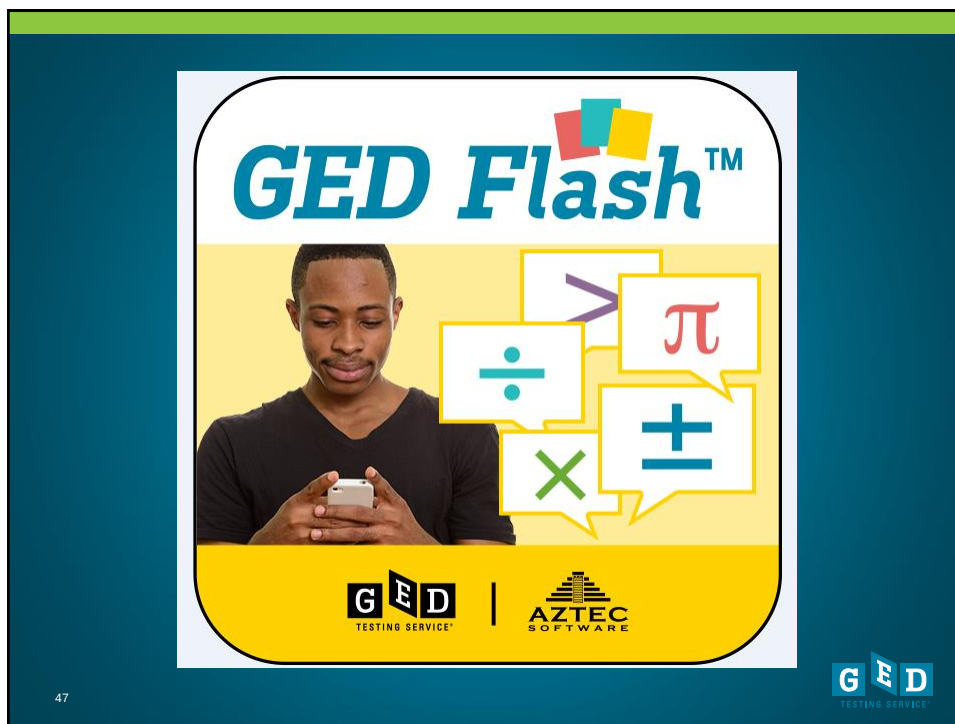
44



GED Live can help extend classroom hours with recorded class sessions

GED® test prep with:

- More than 20 hours of unique GED Class programming
- Provides support for teachers to supplement curriculum
- Engage students who cannot always get to class or require additional independent work



Practice and Feedback!

- 93% of students indicated they are interested in more practice test items and feedback
- #1 on the list of most-wanted resources
- Accessible anywhere from a mobile phone, tablet or computer
- Available for adult education programs – *GED Flash for Organizations*
- Available to students studying on their own (monthly access fee)



New Readers Press: 8-video series on RLA

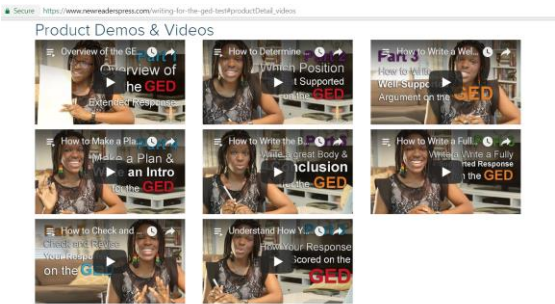


49

Where to find the Extended Response Videos

www.newreaderspress.com/writing-for-the-ged-test

<https://GED.com/Study>



It's Your Turn

- Questions?
- Issues?
- Concerns?

51



Thank you!

communications@GED.com

52

