

Quality Criteria Checklist: Bias and Sensitivity – ELA

Question	Answer (Yes/No)	
Criterion 1: Fairness		
Does the item contain topics that are fair as identified in the Smarter Balanced Bias/Sensitivity Guidelines?	Yes	No
Criterion 2: Topics to be Avoided		
Does the item contain a topic, word, or phrase used primarily in a specific region or localized context?	Yes	No
Does the item contain a topic, word, or phrase associated with a specific religion?	Yes	No
Does the item contain jargon (a topic, word, or phrase associated with a specific trade or occupation)?	Yes	No
Does the item contain an idiom?	Yes	No
Does the item contain a topic, word, or phrase to be avoided as per the Smarter Bias/Sensitivity Guidelines?	Yes	No
Criterion 3: Topics to be Treated with Care		
Does the item contain a topic identified in the Smarter Balanced Bias/Sensitivity Bias/Sensitivity Guidelines as one to be treated with care?	Yes	No
Are the topics treated appropriately?	Yes	No
Criterion 4: Stereotypes		
Does the item avoid stereotypes?	Yes	No
Does the item use appropriate group labels?	Yes	No
Criterion 5: Representation of Diversity		
Does the item include appropriate representation of diversity?	Yes	No
Does the rubric account for all valid and distinct solution paths that are likely to be developed by students?	Yes	No

Quality Criteria Checklist: Accessibility and Engagement – ELA

Question	Answer (Yes/No)	
Accessibility		
Does the passage use clear, grade-appropriate vocabulary and language structures?	Yes	No
Can the passage be transcribed into Braille?	Yes	No
Can the passage be translated into American Sign Language?	Yes	No
Can the passage be accessed through various assistive technologies, such as screen readers ¹ or text-to-speech technology?	Yes	No
Does the passage address topics for a "mainstream" audience, avoiding contexts or examples that may be unfamiliar to specific subgroups?	Yes	No
Does technology included in the item provide value beyond that of a non-technology-enhanced item?	Yes	No
Engagement		
Does the passage promote opportunity for students to envision responses from their own perspective/background?	Yes	No
Does the passage promote personalization of student responses while maintaining the construct?	Yes	No
Does the passage promote authentic intellectual tasks that involve the construction of knowledge, disciplined inquiry, and value beyond the classroom?	Yes	No
Is the passage appropriate such that no group of students is unfairly advantaged or disadvantaged?	Yes	No