

## **Appendix A Prompt and Allowable Interpretations**

### **Grade 4 Expository Prompt**

*Writing Situation:*

Many people have something special to them, like a toy, a book, or an award.

*Directions for Writing:*

Think about something that is special to you and what makes it special. Now write about something that is special, and explain why it is special to you.

The prompt serves as a stimulus for writing. The purpose of the prompt is to elicit writing from fourth grade students statewide. Responses are scored when a connection exists between the prompt and the response although the connection may be tenuous or out of the ordinary.

### **Allowable Interpretations**

Allowable interpretations describe acceptable ways of responding to the prompt. The allowable interpretations serve as a scoring tool that assists scorers in distinguishing scorable from unscorable responses.

- The student is allowed considerable latitude in his/her interpretation of the prompt; therefore, the words in the prompt may be broadly defined.
- The explanation may be fact or fantasy.
- The student may provide a reason or reasons to support what **is** or what **is not** special.
- The student may write about one “thing” or more than one “thing” that is special.
- The student may present information as “factual” even if the information is not based on fact.
- The student may provide one or more reasons something is special, and/or the student may explain multiple aspects (positive and/or negative) of “something special.” “Special” may be implied rather than explicitly stated.
- Narration, description, and persuasion “work” if they provide explanatory information related to the prompt.