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The Project Based Assessment (PBA) website, developed in conjunction with the Standards Aligned System (SAS), has been created to support Students in the completion of Keystone Project Based Assessments.

For students completing a Project Based Assessment as a pathway to proficiency to meet state graduation requirements, this website provides access to the projects. A project is a task that contains related activities based upon the Performance Level Descriptors and Eligible Content of the Keystone Exams. Along with the tasks and activities, the site offers study resources to support successful project completion.

- To access PBA, please visit [http://www.pba.pdesas.org](http://www.pba.pdesas.org)
- To review the roles and responsibilities of those engaged in Project Based Assessments, please visit [http://www.pdesas.org/module/assessment/About.aspx](http://www.pdesas.org/module/assessment/About.aspx).

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**Help Desk**

Email: helpdesk@pdesas.org | Toll Free: 1.877.973.3727

**Hours:**

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 8am – 5pm

Tuesday and Thursday 10am - 7pm
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Logging In

**Note:** All PBA Evaluators will receive an email from the PBA system that will contain a **Username** and **Password** to log into the site. For assistance with login information, please contact the **Help Desk** toll free at 1-877-973-3727 or via email at helpdesk@pdesas.org.

1. Access **Project Based Assessments** by visiting the URL: [http://pba.pdesas.org/](http://pba.pdesas.org/)

2. Navigate to the **Login** box on the left side of the **Home** page.
This can also be accessed by clicking **Log On** in the upper right corner of the **Home** page.

3. Enter your **Username** and **Password** into the appropriate fields and click on the **Log On** button.

4. Once logged on, your **name** should appear in the upper-right hand corner of the page.

**Note:** Upon logging in, you will be taken directly to the **Evaluations** tab in **PBA**.
Home Tab

The **Home** tab of the **PBA** site contains basic information about the nature of the site and contains supporting multimedia.

### Listening to the Quote

PBA contains a collection of educational and inspirational quotes located on the left side of the **Home** page.

1. Navigate to **Wise Words** on the left side of the **Home** page.
2. Ensure that your computer volume is on and your speakers/headphones are connected.
3. Click on the **Listen** icon to begin listening to the quote.

### Utilizing the Voki® Tool

A **Voki®** is a website application that allows the presentation of a speech recording by a virtual being.

1. Locate the **Voki®** window on the **Home** page.
2. Ensure that your computer volume is on and your speakers/headphones are connected.
3. Click on the **Play** button to begin listening on the **Voki®** speak.
4. The buttons may be used to play, pause, and adjust the volume.
Messages Tab

The Messages tab is where you will receive messages from the Project Based Assessments system.

Evaluator are able to view Project Notices, Inbox, and Sent messages.

New messages are labeled “New” to bring them to the Evaluator’s attention.
Project Notices

The Project Notices tab is where you find alerts indicating that a Project is ready to be evaluated.

Notices are identified by the date and time that they were received. New Notices will be labeled as “New” to bring them to the Evaluator’s attention.

Click the (+) next to the Message title to expand the section and display the Message.
**Inbox**

The **Inbox** sub-tab (within the **Messages** tab) is where you will find communications from the **PBA Administrator**. The **PBA Administrator** will notify you with details about your account and when you have been assigned a project to evaluate.

Notices are identified by the date and time that they were received.

Click the plus (+) next to the **Message** title to expand the section and display the message.

Click the **Reply** icon to respond to the **Message**.
A window will open; enter your reply.

Click **Send** to send the reply.

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*Note: If you need immediate assistance you may call the **Help Desk**, toll free, at 1.877.973.3727. **Help Desk** hours are: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 8am – 5pm and Tuesday and Thursday 10am - 7pm.*
**Sent**

The **Sent** sub-tab is where you will find any **Messages** you have sent to the **PBA Administrator**.

**Messages** are identified by the date and time that they were sent.

Click the plus (+) next to the **Message** title to expand the section and display the **Message**.
Evaluations Tab

The Evaluations tab is where you will be able to access current Projects that require your review, as well as completed Projects that were already reviewed.

Current Projects

The Current Projects tab provides you with access to Projects that are assigned to you for review.

Project List

The Project List shows a list of all of the Projects in your queue.

The Project List contains the Keystone Area, Module, Project Name, and Evaluation State.
Searching for Current Projects

Page Numbers and Filtering enable you to search for specific Projects and to organize your list by Keystone Area, Module, Project Name, and Evaluation State.

**Page Numbers and Items per Page**

As the total number of Projects in the Project List increase, the list may expand to multiple pages.

Page Numbers will indicate how many total pages are available to you as well as which page you are currently viewing. Use the arrows to navigate back and forth between the pages of the Project List.

As the Project List grows, you have the ability to control the number of Projects that appear on a page. Click the drop-down menu next to Items per page and select your viewing preference.
Filtering

Filters enable you to search for **Current Projects** by **Keystone Area, Module, Project Name**, or **Evaluation State**.

The display may be filtered by clicking **Click to open the filter** at the top of the display.

Use the **Filter** areas to specify your parameters. Click **Apply Filter**.

**Projects** displayed will now conform to the **Filter** parameters.
Completed Projects

Under Completed Projects, Evaluators can access the projects they have already reviewed.

Project List

The Project List shows a list of all of the Projects that you have reviewed.

The Project List contains the Keystone Area, Module, Project Name, and Evaluation State.

Search for Completed Projects

Page Numbers and Filtering enable you to search for specific Projects and to organize your list by Keystone Area, Module, Project Name, and Evaluation State.

Page Numbers and Items per Page

As the total number of Completed Projects in the Project List increases, the list may expand to multiple pages.

Page Numbers will indicate how many total pages are available to you as well as which page you are currently viewing. Use the arrows to navigate back and forth between the pages of the Project List.
As the Project List grows, you have the ability to control the number of Projects that appear on a page. Click the drop-down menu next to Items per page and select your viewing preference.
Filtering

Filters enable you to search for completed projects by **Keystone Area, Module, Project Name, or Evaluation State**.

The display may be filtered by clicking **Click to open the filter** at the top of the display.

Use the **Filter** areas to specify your parameters. Click **Apply Filter**.

**Projects** displayed will now conform to the **Filter** parameters.
Evaluating a Project

By clicking the hyperlinked **Project Name**, you will be redirected to a **Student’s Project** and can begin the evaluation process.

### Navigating a Project

A series of tabs allow you to navigate through the **Project**. The content is organized into five sub-tabs:
Overview

The Overview tab provides you with the Project Based Assessment Scenario, Task Directions, as well as the Eligible Content Items Assessed. It offers background information about what Students will be doing in a Project.

Floating with Disaster Overview

Project Based Assessment Scenario

As a volunteer for the Keystone Ecology and Conservation Group, your job is to monitor local waterways. The environmental group received information about an environmental incident in a local stream. During your investigation of the stream, you come to a place that appears to be polluted. The stream has become cloudy and the organisms of the stream are showing signs of mutations. Upon further observation, you begin to notice additional differences between the biotic and abiotic factors found along the stream.

Task Directions

Your task is to identify how the disturbance(s) has/have impacted the life found in the stream. You must prepare a statement for your local county council outlining the environmental disturbance of the stream based on your evidence collected. You will need to cite evidence discovered pertaining to the environmental disturbance to justify your conclusions.

TASK 1: Your Thoughts

- Activity 1: A Disturbing Situation - You start to examine how it is possible that these streams came to be polluted.
- Activity 2: Living or Nonliving - An ecosystem is comprised of biotic and abiotic factors. Please explain the difference between the two.
- Activity 3: Snapshot Samples - Collect and describe your samples.

You may also have the content on the Overview tab read aloud by clicking the Listen button at the top of the Overview tab page. Ensure that your computer volume is on and your speakers/headphones are connected.
Project Tasks

The Project Tasks sub-tab shows the Tasks and Activities that make up the project. It is where the Student’s actual work on the Project took place.

Tasks

You are a literary reviewer for your school newspaper. Since each student in your grade level must read a piece of dystopian literature* in English class, you have been assigned to review two dystopian works (each from a different genre) and recommend one of them to your readers.

You must select and read two pieces of literature that illustrate the concept of dystopia - an undesirable imaginary community and the complete opposite of a perfect world. You will select two different genres to explain to your readers the effectiveness of each selection, how well they each employed literary elements, and how each author portrays the dystopian theme.

By completing the literary review chart for the texts you have chosen, you will provide the editor with evidence to support your choice from the two selections you have read.

* Dystopia is the opposite of a utopia or perfect world, referring to fictional societies that are incredibly imperfect, lacking the harmonious and democratic qualities of life depicted in utopias; however dystopias often contain many of the same elements as utopias—such as intense measures of social control—but these elements are taken to horrific extremes, with emphasis upon their negative effects.

Below is the list of tasks that you must complete in this project. A task is a set of activities that you will work on under the direction of your test administrator and tutor. In addition, there are one or more "checkpoints" that you must pass in order to move on through the project. This display shows your progress in passing these checkpoints. You may click on the title of the activity in order to access it.

Task 1: Literature Connections

To display the Student’s work, click the plus (+), which will expand to show the Activities within the Task.

Task 1: Literature Connections

After you have read the two selected readings, complete the chart below. Note the four common literary elements in the chart below. Write a brief example from each piece of literature that exhibits that term.

List below the two works of literature you read.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TEXT 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title: Sample Title</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Author: Author</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genre: Genre</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Scoring Guide

The Scoring Guide tab is where you can review the Student’s self-evaluation, feedback provided by the Student’s Tutor, as well as any feedback provided by other Evaluators. It is in this tab where you will conduct your own evaluation of the Completed Project.


To record your Evaluation, click the circle that appears within the Evaluator column.

Scoring Guide

After the student and tutor have evaluated and submitted the project, you will evaluate the project using the same checklist:

- If you approve all sections, the project will continue on in the review process.
- If you do not approve all sections, the project will be returned to the student for improvement.
- For any section that you do not approve, please use the feedback icon to add specific comments or feedback that students can utilize to improve their project submissions.

The list below summarizes the competencies the student must demonstrate in the process of completing this project.

Submit My Evaluations

The status of this project is 'Submitted for Evaluation', as of 2/12/2014 11:30 AM.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluative Factor/Criteria for Presentation</th>
<th>Eligible Content</th>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Tutor</th>
<th>Evaluator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Analyze, interpret, and evaluate how authors use techniques and elements of fiction to effectively communicate an idea or concept.</td>
<td>L.F.1.1.3</td>
<td>📦</td>
<td>📦</td>
<td>📦</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. When you click the related circle, a pop-up window will appear with three (3) selections. They are:

- **Approved** – The Student’s work for this item has met the Eligible Content criteria and is satisfactory.

- **Not Approved** – The Student’s work has not met the Eligible Content criteria and is unsatisfactory. The work must be corrected to better meet the requirements; hence the Evaluator must provide feedback to guide the student in re-submitting the work.

- **Not Yet Submitted** – This is the default setting for items you have yet to evaluate.

2. Continue down the list of required items. Each item must be assessed.

3. Once you have reviewed all items, you will then click **Submit My Evaluations**.

**Scoring Guide**

After the student and tutor have evaluated and submitted the project, you will evaluate the project using the same checklist.

- If you approve all sections, the project will continue on in the review process.
- If you do not approve all sections, the project will be returned to the student for improvement.
- For any section that you do not approve, please use the feedback icon to add specific comments or feedback that students can utilize to improve their project submissions.

The list below summarizes the competencies the student must demonstrate in the process of completing this project.
Using the Scoring Guide

The Scoring Guide allows you to efficiently evaluate a project by providing you with the Evaluative Factor/Criteria for Presentation and the Eligible Content. Within this tab, you have the ability to view the various Tasks and Activities within the Project and a Student’s self-assessment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluative Factor/Criteria for Presentation</th>
<th>Eligible Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Analyze, interpret, and evaluate how authors use techniques and elements of fiction to effectively communicate an idea or concept.</td>
<td>LF.1.1.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Viewing a Student’s Work

Each Evaluative Factor (Eligible Content) is linked to specific portions of a Student’s Project.

To see the portion of the Student’s Project that is covered by the Evaluative Factor (Eligible Content), click the hyperlink that appears beneath it.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluative Factor/Criteria for Presentation</th>
<th>Eligible Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Analyze, interpret, and evaluate how authors use techniques and elements of fiction to effectively communicate an idea or concept.</td>
<td>LF.1.1.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Use the Evaluative Factor (Eligible Content) to assess the Student’s work.

Providing Feedback

In the Scoring Guide, the Evaluator must provide feedback to the student for each Evaluative Factor (Eligible Content) marked Not Approved.

By clicking the Add a Comment icon, you provide necessary feedback to the Student.
Submitting an Evaluation

When finished evaluating the Project, the Evaluator submits their evaluation. Only projects that have all Evaluative Factors (Eligible Content) marked as approved will be considered for final approval.

Once all Evaluative Factors (Eligible Content) are marked, click Submit My Evaluations.

Note: Submitting an Evaluation with all Evaluative Factors (Eligible Content) marked as approved does not indicate final approval of a project. It only indicates that you as one of multiple Evaluators has accepted a student’s work as satisfactorily meeting the specified Evaluative Factors (Eligible Content). Overall project approval is dependent on Evaluator consensus.
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Tab

1. To begin, click on the FAQ tab on the Navigation Bar.

2. Scroll down the page to view the Frequently Asked Questions.

3. Click on the plus (+) to display information pertaining to the question you selected.

   ![What Is Project Based Assessment and how is it different from project-based learning?](image)

   Click on the minus (-) to collapse the information and select another question.

4. For any questions not addressed in the FAQ tab, please call the SAS Help Desk toll free at 1-877-9PDESAS (1-977-973-3727) or via email at helpdesk@pdesas.org.
Help Tab

The Help page contains a video that provides an overview of Project Based Assessments.

To view the video:

1. Click on the Help tab.
2. Click the Play button on the presentation screen or on the toolbar. Use controls to play and pause the video, to play the video full-screen, and to adjust the volume.
3. The buttons on the toolbar can be used to pause video, adjust volume or expand to full screen. To close full screen, press the Escape (Esc) button on your keyboard.
Footer Menu

The footer menu rests at the bottom of every page on the site. It provides quick access to a number of areas within the site.

About SAS

Learn about the vision and components of the Standards Aligned System (SAS).

Terms of Use

Find information about the legal use of SAS and its associated portals.

FAQ

Clicking FAQ will take you to the same Frequently Asked Questions page as the FAQ tab.
Help Desk

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