Suggestions for Assessment Accommodations for ELLs

Guidelines for Language Simplification

- Replace low-frequency words with common words.
- Replace culturally biased words and contexts with culturally neutral words.
- Use familiar (universal) contexts and settings.
- Repeat nouns. Avoid indefinite pronouns (e.g., some, any) and synonyms.
  Check that all pronouns have clear antecedents.
- Make presentation more concrete and personal.
- Remove unnecessary expository material.
- Replace conditional clauses with separate sentences.
- Replace verbs in the passive voice with verbs in the active voice.
- Reduce the number of words in a sentence or separate long sentences into shorter ones.
- Use bulleted lists instead of paragraphs whenever possible.
- Reduce number of modifiers in a noun phrase.
- Replace complex question phrases with simple question words.
- Remove or recast relative clauses.
- Rephrase negatives in a positive form.
- Rephrase sentences that can confuse the order of math operations to eliminate reversal errors.

Other Accommodations to Make Assessments More Comprehensible for ELLs

- Use graphic organizers.
- Provide on-page glosses or a glossary (English or key terms in the text).
- Break tasks into smaller steps.
- Provide graphic organizers or note-taking sheets.
- Change the task product to suit the language proficiency level but still meet standards.
- Illustrate with visuals and other graphics.
- Include more white space on the page and use larger font size.
- Include a checklist of items to be included in the response to the task prompt, in the written response portion of the project, or in the oral presentation.