

DESKTOPICKS...

School Relations Tip #3

[Georgia Writing Assessments](#) - Georgia Law requires that writing assessments be administered to public school students in grades 3, 5, 8 and 11. Student writing samples are scored to provide feedback to teachers, students and parents about individual performance and serve the purpose of improving writing and writing instruction. 5th grade students may be asked to write either an *informational, persuasive or narrative* paper. 8th grade students may be asked to write either an *expository* or a *persuasive* paper. These tests scores are very important to our school partners. But, you ask, "What does this have to do with Extension work?"

Informational and expository writings are equivalent to writing a 4-H demonstration. If you can make this connection to your language arts teachers in your schools, like the staff in Putnam County has done with their literary coach at the middle school, you will no longer be that person coming into the classroom taking their students off task, but rather that valuable resource who is making informational writing relevant. This could ultimately lead to added resources for your program. Try it out. But before you do, you might want to learn more about it by going to the GA DOE website at:

http://www.doe.k12.ga.us/ci_testing.aspx

Click on the *Writing Assessment* icon. Al Parker in Putnam County is also a great resource to help you. He can be reached at alparker@uga.edu

Past **DESKTOPICKS...** are archived on the County Operations page on our intranet at <http://www.caes.uga.edu/intranet/coextopr/>. Just follow the path to Strategic Initiatives.