



CRAFTING ACT-STYLE TESTS USING GOOGLE GEMINI & GOOGLE FORMS

Presenter: Randal P. Wolfinger – CPS Educator

Event: Googlepalooza 2026

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WELCOME & OBJECTIVES

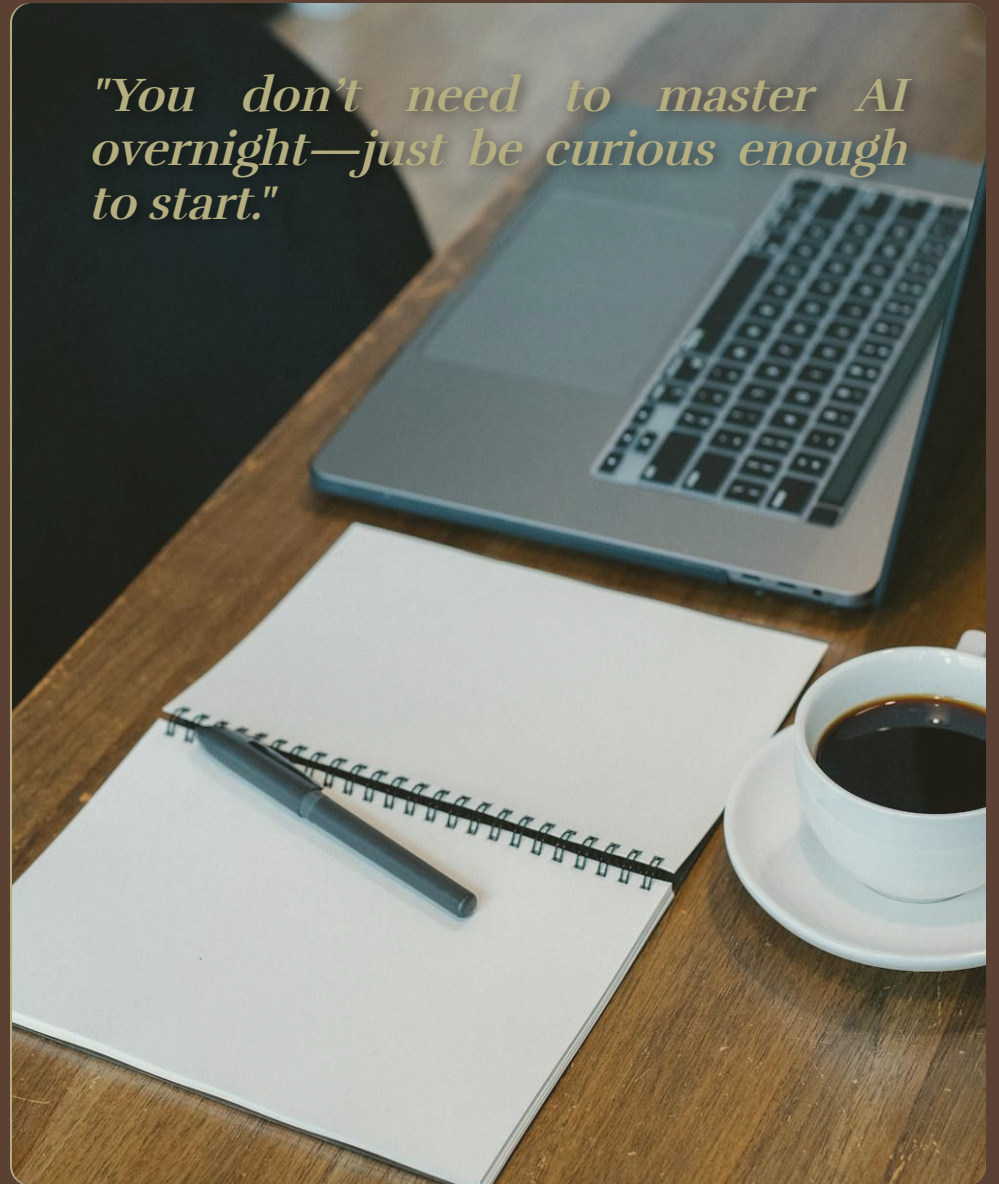
REVOLUTIONIZING ASSESSMENT WITH GOOGLE GEMINI & GOOGLE FORMS

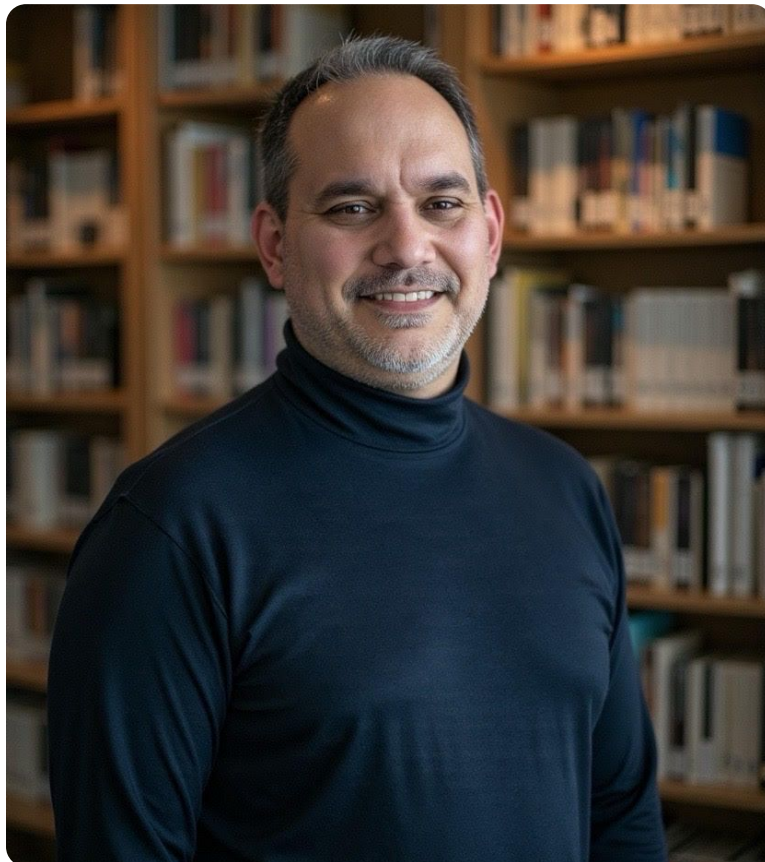
TODAY'S GOALS:

- Use Google Gemini to generate ACT-style reading passages
- Write standards-aligned, tiered questions
- Build assessments in Google Forms
- Analyze student data using Google Sheets + Flubaroo

+ Bio

"You don't need to master AI overnight—just be curious enough to start."





Meet Your Presenter – Randal P. Wolfinger

Hi everyone! My name is Randal Wolfinger. I'm a proud CPS graduate, veteran educator, and someone who's always looking for practical, high-impact ways to improve instruction and assessment. Today I'm sharing how I use Google Gemini and Google Forms to create meaningful, ACT-style assessments that actually support what we teach in the classroom.

- CPS graduate & veteran teacher
- Social Studies Department Chair and former 9th Grade Team Lead
- Advocate for relevant, classroom-connected testing
- Passionate about using AI to support student growth

WHY I STARTED THIS JOURNEY



Why I Moved Away from Traditional Platforms

- Formerly used paid ACT/SAT platforms
- Problems:
- *Outdated readings, weak alignment*
- *Only 1–2 questions per standard*
- *Costly (thousands per year)*
- *Disconnected from classroom learning*
- Switched to Google Gemini to create relevant, cost-effective, rigorous assessments that match what students are learning

WHY ACT-STYLE TESTS?

Since college entry requires high-stakes testing, it's essential that students develop the skills and strategies to succeed on assessments like the ACT. With 700–800 word passages, they build stamina and confidence that they can get a good score. These tests also train students to recognize the tier of a question—helping them decide whether to answer it immediately or skip it and return later, a skill that builds confidence and strategy for high-stakes exams.



Mirrors real-world high stakes tests

Builds reading stamina with 700–800 word passages

Gives students more confidence in taking these high-stake tests

Aligns directly to CCSS RH.9–10.1 to RH.9–10.5

Integrates seamlessly with standards-based grading

Helps guide instruction and target specific skills

USING GOOGLE GEMINI TO GENERATE READINGS

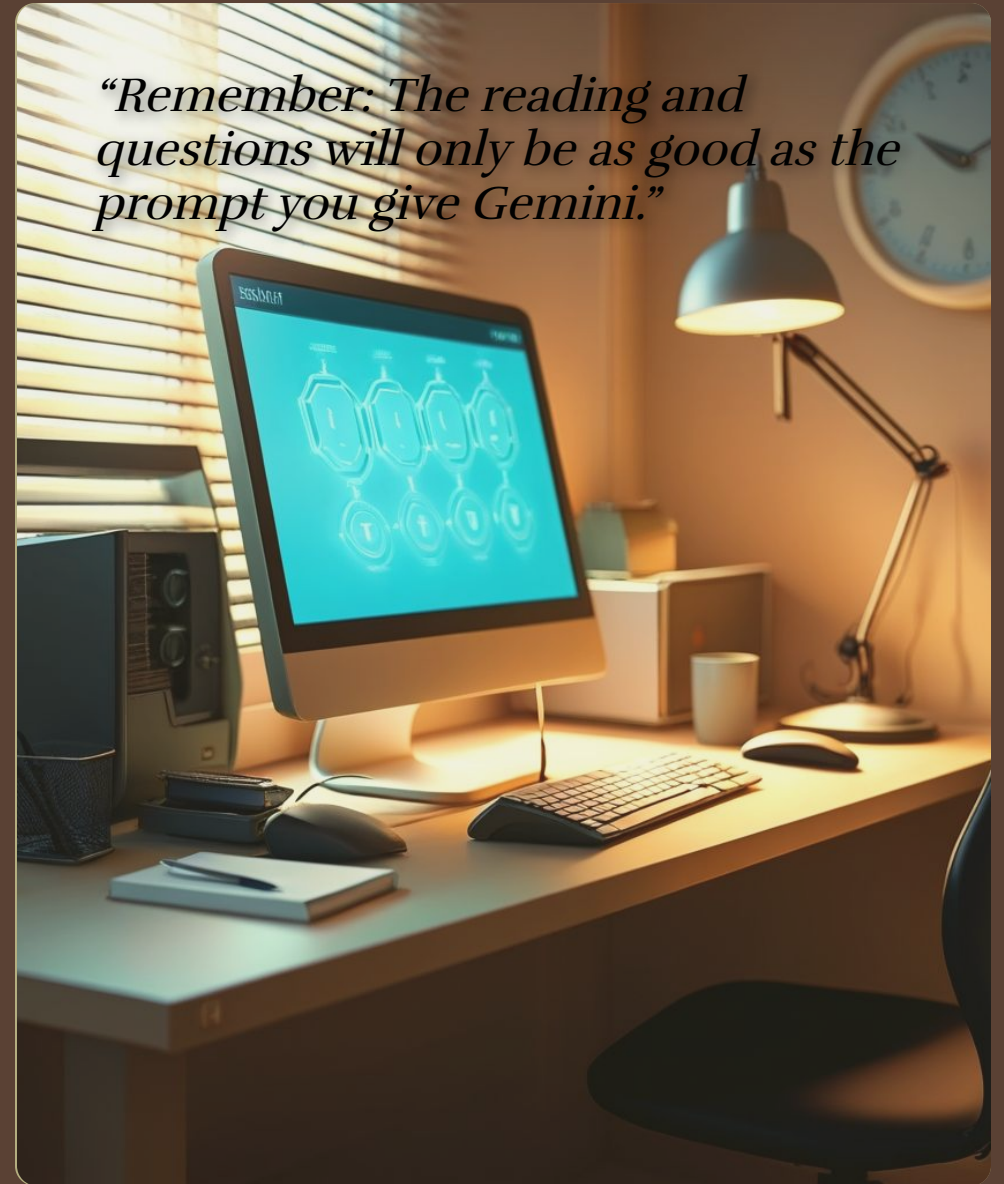
EXAMPLE PROMPT FOR GEMINI

"Write a 700-800 word nonfiction article for 9th grade students about the mysterious death of King Tutankhamun. Include multiple theories and historical evidence. Make applicable for a 9th grade world studies class. Have reading at a 1000-1200 lexile score.

Adjust the prompt for:

- Lexile level
- Historical depth
- Primary/secondary sources

+ Important



"Remember: The reading and questions will only be as good as the prompt you give Gemini."

I CANNOT STRESS THIS ENOUGH:

- Read the article to check for errors, bias or overall content.
- Nothing is perfect, Gemini and other AI platforms are just tools to help develop curriculum faster and in a more productive manner.
- It takes me about 1-2 hours to create these formative and summative assessments.



WRITING STANDARDS- ALIGNED QUESTIONS WITH GEMINI

Creating Tiered ACT-Style Questions with
Google Gemini



PROMPT EXAMPLE

Give me 10 ACT style multiple choice questions. Use CCSS RH.9-10.1, RH.9-10.2 and RH.9-10.4. Use Tier 1-3. Before question, give standard and tier level. after each question give the correct answer and briefly why it is correct, and give why each of the others is incorrect.

4 THINGS TO CONSIDER

What standard are you targeting?

Know which specific CCSS (like RH.9-10.1 or RH.9-10.5) your question is measuring to ensure alignment and focus.



Be Clear About the Tier:

Decide whether your question is Tier 1 (basic), Tier 2 (interpretive), or Tier 3 (analytical) so students are challenged at the right level.



Keep Diverse Learners in Mind:

Follow their IEP's. Give extended time, have the reading read to them, have them take the test in a smaller setting. Do not lower the Lexile score!!!!



Teach Students to Recognize Tiers:

Help students identify the complexity of a question so they can make strategic decisions about when to answer or skip.



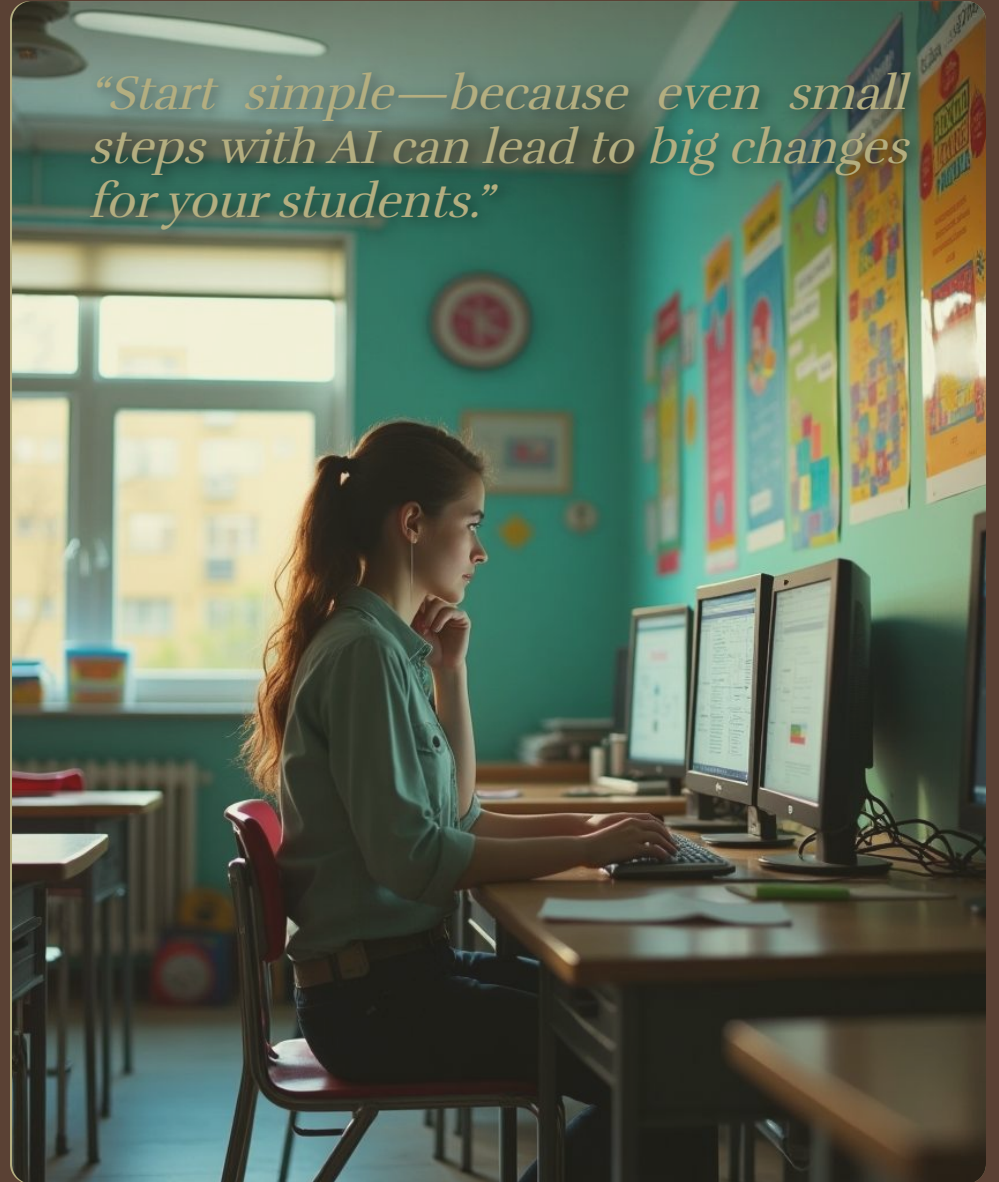
BUILDING ASSESSMENTS IN GOOGLE FORMS

TURNING QUESTIONS INTO A DIGITAL ASSESSMENT

Creating the assessment in Google Forms is incredibly simple, it's really just a matter of copying and pasting. I took the reading I generated using Google Gemini and pasted it directly into the form, either in the description or as its own section. Then I copied my ACT-style questions, already aligned to standards, and pasted them in as paragraph response questions. Each question is labeled by standard and tier of the question. Each question has a point value and reason why the answer given is right or wrong. No coding, no advanced setup, just cut, paste, and assign.

+ Lessons
Learned

"Start simple—because even small steps with AI can lead to big changes for your students."



THINGS I ALWAYS DO BEFORE SHARING THE FORM

- Use *Canva* to design custom visual headers for each assessment
- Reread the passage and questions to check for clarity, grammar, and alignment
- Apply a dark theme in Google Forms to reduce eye strain for students
- Adjust Form settings to assign the appropriate point value to each question



ANALYZING DATA WITH FLUBAROO & GOOGLE SHEETS

Why Data Matters:

Looking at student data is a critical part of the assessment process because it turns a test from a static task into a meaningful tool for instruction. By reviewing response patterns, identifying which standards students struggled with, and spotting outlier answers, we can make informed decisions about what to reteach, who needs more support, and how to adjust our instruction moving forward. Without this step, assessments become snapshots—with it, they become roadmaps.



Review **Google Forms** Response Summary for instant visuals



Use **Flubaroo** to automatically grade short-answer questions (when possible), email scores, and sort by standard



Use individual responses to give targeted feedback



Use data to form **reteach groups**





- Instantly view charts showing class-wide trends
- Spot which questions were most missed and what standard they assess
- Identify outlier or unexpected answers and reflect on possible causes (confusion, misreading, or question wording)



- Instantly see class-wide graphs, most-missed questions, and trends
- Identify which standards need reteaching at a glance
- Flubaroo is an add on in google sheets

- Review one student's full assessment at a time
- Use to guide 1-on-1 check-ins, conferences, or small group reteach



- Focus on Tier 2 and Tier 3 responses that require inference or analysis
- Reinforce using evidence and structured thinking in student writing



GRADING FOR MASTERY – 80% = 100%

REWARDING MASTERY, NOT PERFECTION

- I use a mastery-based scale where 8 out of 10 correct = 100%
- This system rewards students for demonstrating proficiency, not perfection
- Scores over 8/10 are counted as bonus points (growth incentive)
- Helps motivate students and reduce anxiety around assessments

Why It Works:

- Aligns with standards-based grading: mastery, not completion
- Encourages risk-taking and effort without penalizing small errors
- Students who exceed expectations are recognized with extra credit (up to 125%)

Questions Correct	Raw %	Adjusted Grade (%)	ACT Approximate Equivalent
0	0%	0%	1-2
1	10%	13%	5-6
2	20%	25%	10-11
3	30%	38%	13-14
4	40%	50%	15-17
5	50%	63%	18-19
6	60%	75%	20-21
7	70%	88%	22-23 (College Ready)
8	80%	100%	24-26
9	90%	112%	27-29
10	100%	125%	30-36

FINAL THOUGHTS

“Assessment should be a flashlight, not a hammer. Let it guide your teaching, not punish your students.”



We're not teaching to the test—we're teaching to the content. >

The skills students practice through these assessments are grounded in your curriculum, not test prep drills.

If used with fidelity, this model can raise achievement for all students. >

ACT-style practice helps students build reading stamina, confidence, and deeper understanding of historical texts.

It also helps identify educational gaps, especially among ESL students. >

Consistent, standards-based writing responses can reveal who is struggling due to language development vs. content knowledge.