



Navigating the WJ Toolkit: Using the Right Combination During the Right Situation

Jenny L Ponzuric, MA, LEP, ABSNP



Learning Objectives

- Understanding the basic battery for the WJ IV Cognitive, Language and Academic Batteries
- Using the referral question to widen the scope of tools to administer
- Using the WJ IV batteries to understand the “why” behind the student profile





WJ IV Batteries

WJ IV COG + WJ IV OL + WJ IV ACH
=
Over 50 tests to choose from





Start with the Basic Battery

- Cognition = first 10 tests
 - Vocabulary knowledge
 - Fluid reasoning skills
 - Short-term memory
 - Phonological skills
 - More!





Start with the Basic Battery



- Language = 8 tests
 - Listening comprehension and oral expression
 - Phonemic awareness
 - Rapid naming skills
 - Verbal memory



Start with the Basic Battery

- Academic = first 6 tests
 - Reading decoding
 - Reading comprehension
 - Math calculation
 - Math reasoning
 - Spelling
 - Written language skills





Consider the Referral Question

- Scenario #1 = Reading
 - Basic Battery = basic components of reading
 - Additional academic assessment to examine nonsense word decoding, reading fluency at the word and sentence levels
 - Aspects of phonemic awareness with the WJ IV COG and WJ IV OL batteries





Consider the Referral Question

- Scenario #2 = Memory
 - Is the memory concern due to memory difficulties, medication side effects or head trauma?
 - Standard WJ IV COG → working memory and verbal working memory
 - Additional WJ IV COG tests → short-term memory and visual memory





Consider the Referral Question



- Scenario #3 = Production
 - Are the student's difficulties due to a skill deficit or a production deficit?



When to Dig Deeper

- Underlying reasons for a low score on the WJ IV COG
 - Processing speed difficulties on Letter-Pattern Matching
 - Processing speed?
 - Orthographic processing?
 - Executive functioning?





When to Dig Deeper

- Underlying reasons for a low score on the WJ IV ACH
 - Reading Comprehension
 - Comprehension
 - Fluency
 - Decoding
 - Vocabulary
 - Phonemic Awareness





Understanding the “why” behind scores

- Standardized scores need your interpretation
 - Where there variables during the evaluation process that would assist the reader with interpretation?
 - From the variety of reasons for a low score on a specific test, what is the reason for this individual student?

Thank you!

For more insights on the [WJ IV](#), explore additional resources [here](#).