

Directions for the Written Assignment

This section of the test consists of one constructed-response written assignment. You are to prepare a written response of approximately 300–400 words on the assigned topic.

Read the assignment carefully before you begin to type. The written assignment appears on the screen with an answer box immediately below the assignment. Type your response in this answer box.

Your response will be scored on the extent to which you effectively communicate a whole message to the specified audience for the stated purpose. You will be assessed on your ability to express, organize, and support opinions and ideas, not on the position you take. Your response to the assignment will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

Purpose and Appropriateness: The extent to which the composition addresses the assigned topic and uses language and style appropriate to the specified audience

Unity and Focus: The extent to which the composition clearly states and maintains a thesis statement

Development: The extent to which the composition provides reasoned, relevant, and specific support to develop the thesis statement

Organization: The extent to which the composition uses an organizational structure that enhances meaning and is logically sequenced from sentence to sentence and from paragraph to paragraph

Usage and Sentence Structure: The extent to which the composition shows precise word choice and employs correct, effective, and varied sentence structure

Grammar and Mechanical Conventions: The extent to which the composition demonstrates correct grammar, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation

Be sure to write about the assigned topic. You may not use any reference materials. Your response must be your original work, written in your own words, and not copied or paraphrased from some other work. Remember to review what you have written and make any changes you think will improve your written response. The final version of your response should conform to the conventions of edited English as used in the United States.