

GRE Analytical Writing

Sample Paper 01

A) Subject: Analytical Writing

B) Total Tasks: 2 Tasks (Section I: Analyze an Issue — Section II: Analyze an Argument)

C) Marking Scheme & Rules:

- **Score Scale:** 0.0 – 6.0 (in half-point increments).
- **Task 1 (Issue):** Evaluate your ability to think critically about a topic of general interest and clearly express your thoughts in writing.
- **Task 2 (Argument):** Evaluate your ability to understand, analyze, and evaluate arguments and convey your evaluation in writing.
- **Time Limit:** 30 Minutes per task.

Section I: GRE Issue Essay

1. Issue

"The primary objective of higher education should be to challenge students to fundamentally question their deeply held personal assumptions, rather than to teach them how to harmonize with existing professional structures."

2. Issue

"Societies that place the highest value on stability and predictable order will invariably stifle the erratic, non-conformist impulses required to produce world-altering intellectual breakthroughs."

3. Issue

"To prepare for a rapidly shifting global economy, academic curricula must focus entirely on multidisciplinary adaptability rather than encouraging absolute mastery over a highly specific technical field."

4. Issue

"The ultimate sophistication of any civilization is reflected in its commitment to preserving its fragile natural ecosystems, rather than its capacity to build magnificent architectural and industrial monuments."

5. Issue

"As administrative algorithms and predictive technologies assume larger roles in

public governance, human leaders will gradually lose their capacity for nuanced, case-by-case ethical decision making.”

6. Issue

”The true value of rigorous journalistic inquiry is not to inform the public on routine global events, but to serve as an aggressive, unyielding check on corporate and governmental power.”

7. Issue

”True innovation is almost never the result of collaborative group consensus or institutional teamwork; it is the product of isolated, independent minds working in direct defiance of established peer expectations.”

8. Issue

”Governments should focus their public healthcare funding entirely on local, preventative lifestyle interventions within their borders, rather than investing resources into speculative, cutting-edge biomedical research.”

9. Issue

”The hyper-connected, virtual nature of modern communication has fundamentally undermined the psychological conditions required for humans to build profound, lifelong bonds of community trust.”

10. Issue

”A government’s primary mandate must be to shield its citizens from economic volatility and corporate exploitation, even if doing so significantly constrains absolute free-market liberties.”

Section II: GRE Argument Essay

1. Argument:

The following appeared in a memorandum from the operations manager of NovaPac Logistics to the executive board.

”Three years ago, our main competitor, Apex Freight, replaced all of its traditional regional sorting hubs with automated drone-assisted sortation facilities. Since then, their average delivery processing times have dropped by 40 percent and their local warehouse labor expenses have plummeted. In order to reclaim our declining market share, minimize overhead costs, and significantly maximize delivery speeds, NovaPac should immediately convert all of our regional hubs into identical automated drone-assisted sortation facilities.”

2. Argument:

The following was posted on an angel investor network blog.

”When deciding which premium health-tech application startup to fund, WellStream is a demonstrably superior and less risky choice than VitalSync. WellStream manages over 800 active institutional medical partnerships, whereas VitalSync lists only 300, many of which are completely inactive during public holiday weekends. Additionally, WellStream’s net profit margin last fiscal year was double that of VitalSync,

and its corporate licensing fee averages \$60 per user compared to VitalSync's \$35. Tech architectures optimized like WellStream's retain corporate clients far longer: four years ago, I financed a platform styled precisely after VitalSync and it went bankrupt within ten months due to poor user retention; conversely, I backed a WellStream clone last year and it has already reached 100,000 paid subscribers. To secure a high investment return, select WellStream."

3. Argument:

The following was written as part of a commercial property redevelopment brief submitted to the city council of Crestview.

"Opening a premium organic tea lounge in Crestview will be an extraordinarily lucrative venture. Currently, the nearest specialty tea merchant is over 45 miles away; thus, our proposed establishment, ZenLeaf Lounge, will command an absolute monopoly over the local luxury hot-beverage market. Furthermore, consumer demand for organic specialty beverages is exceptionally high in Crestview: more than 18,000 residents attended the city's annual Spring Wellness Expo, several prominent fitness and nutrition influencers live in the downtown district, and the highest-rated local podcast is 'Holistic Living,' which airs weekly. A major national consumer index also notes that the typical organic food and beverage enthusiast spends over \$1,400 annually on premium artisanal items. ZenLeaf Lounge is guaranteed to yield immense profits."

4. Argument:

The following appeared in a corporate strategy memo distributed by the executive board of Aura Foods.

"NutraPulse, a manufacturer of organic cold-pressed plant-based protein shakes that currently distributes its products exclusively to a small, select network of luxury day spas, exhibits immense scaling potential. NutraPulse recorded a 35 percent spike in regional sales last year, and its flagship product, GreenMuscle, has broken its own retail sales records for three consecutive years. Because Aura Foods is explicitly aiming to capture the 18-to-30 age demographic—the consumer group that purchases the highest per-capita volume of wellness supplements—we should acquire NutraPulse and focus our immediate capital on distributing GreenMuscle to major supermarket chains nationwide."

5. Argument:

The following appeared in a safety newsletter from the plant director at Vanguard Steel Manufacturing.

"During the past twelve months, Vanguard Steel recorded 50 percent more industrial machinery accidents than our close competitor, Titan Foundries, which strictly enforces a mandatory 15-minute rest break after every two and a half hours of continuous assembly operations. Cognitive ergonomics studies show that repetitive task fatigue and physical exhaustion are the primary catalysts for heavy equipment accidents. Therefore, to minimize workplace mishaps at Vanguard and dramatically maximize line productivity, we should immediately implement an identical policy of 15-minute breaks every two and a half hours so our operators can maintain optimal alertness."

6. Argument:

The following appeared in a report written by the real estate expansion director of EarthWise Organics, a grocery chain specializing in sustainable, zero-waste products.

"Our historical corporate data proves that our retail grocery branches yield their highest net profits in municipalities where residents display an active commitment to ecological conservation. We should therefore build our next storefront in the town of Silverton. Silverton retailers report that sales of home composting kits and reusable glass storage containers are at an all-time high. Furthermore, the local conservation center, which suffered from low community engagement a decade ago, is now fully booked for weekend volunteer tree-planting events. We can also count on a reliable pipeline of future buyers: the Silverton school board recently implemented a mandatory 'Ecological Citizenship' curriculum that teaches children the importance of reducing plastic waste. Building a branch in Silverton is a clear path to high revenue."

7. Argument:

The following appeared in an article in a national business and employment review.

"In the management consulting sector, the number of senior strategists leaving prestigious, multinational firms to work for boutique, remote-only consulting agencies increased by 35 percent over the past two years. Even though traditional multinational firms offer significantly higher baseline salaries and robust corporate pension structures, consultants are choosing boutique firms because they heavily prioritize the freedom of working from any geographic location. In a recent survey administered to top-tier MBA graduates, the vast majority answered that geographic flexibility was a significantly higher priority than an elevated starting base salary. This clear trend indicates that multinational consulting firms must transition to fully remote operational models if they intend to successfully recruit top-tier talent."

8. Argument:

The following appeared in the medical investment analysis section of a global financial newsletter.

"Given that the global demographic of individuals diagnosed with chronic dry eye syndrome is projected to rise from 30 million to 55 million over the next decade, medical device companies manufacturing advanced ophthalmic micro-misters will experience exceptional profitability. Many market analysts predict that OptiDrop, which manufactures the 'MistRelief' device—the current best-selling treatment on the market—will emerge as the most profitable firm in the sector in ten years. However, OptiDrop's core fluid-delivery patent expires in two years, which will legally permit competitors to launch cheap generic duplicates of the device. Thus, it is highly probable that the top spot will actually be secured by TearTech, the creator of a new, ultra-silent micro-mister called 'HydroMist,' which initial clinical trials reveal is preferred by nine out of ten patients suffering from severe ophthalmic discomfort."

9. Argument:

The following appeared in a letter to the editor of the Grandview Chronicle.

"In the upcoming municipal election, residents of Grandview should cast their votes for Julian Vance, a dedicated advocate for the Clean Air Taskforce, instead of the in-

cumbent city councilman, Donald Sterling. Under Councilman Sterling's oversight, the number of industrial zoning permits in Grandview has doubled, verified particulate matter levels have steadily climbed, and the local pediatric clinic has reported a 35 percent spike in children treated for acute asthma attacks. If we elect Julian Vance, Grandview's public environmental challenges will undoubtedly be completely resolved."

10. **Argument:**

The following appeared in a memo from the town administrator of Pine Valley.

"Two years ago, environmental engineering models predicted that Pine Valley's primary underground fresh-water aquifer would deplete entirely within four years due to over-extraction. Over the past two years, however, town residents have reduced their total household water consumption by exactly 45 percent compared to historical averages. Next month, usage metrics are anticipated to drop even further because the town council is doubling the residential utility rates for excessive water consumption. Furthermore, over eighty-five percent of residents who responded to a recent town survey stated that they intend to install high-efficiency water-saving fixtures in the near future. Because of our community's demonstrable dedication to conservation, our local water supply will last significantly longer than the engineers originally forecast."