

GRE Analytical Writing

Sample Paper 02

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 goal of technological advancement should be to increase human leisure time, rather than to maximize workplace productivity."

2. **Issue**

"True wisdom is not found in the acquisition of specialized academic facts, but in the ability to simplify complex ideas for a general audience."

3. **Issue**

"Societies should prioritize the enforcement of international laws over local cultural traditions whenever a conflict between the two arises."

4. **Issue**

"Decisive action, even when based on incomplete information, is far superior to delayed action caused by over-analysis."

5. **Issue**

"While public institutions can incentivize moral behavior through reward systems, structural changes to external laws cannot alter the foundational nature of human greed."

6. Issue

"Calculated, systematic strategy guarantees long-term success, whereas relying on spontaneous risk-taking leads to inevitable failure."

7. Issue

"Innovation is rarely an individual achievement; it is almost entirely a collective product born from collaboration within diverse teams."

8. Issue

"The primary value of studying history is not to avoid repeating past mistakes, but to appreciate how radically different the future will be from the present."

9. Issue

"When societies choose to preserve older, historic infrastructure over building modern facilities, they are letting nostalgia hinder progress."

10. Issue

"The accumulation of information via modern media has not made society more informed, but rather more polarized and less capable of understanding truth."

Section II: GRE Argument Essay

1. Argument:

The following appeared in a memorandum from the city council of Oakridge to the local urban planning board.

"Five years ago, the neighboring town of Riverdale converted its central commercial district into a pedestrian-only zone, completely banning vehicles. Since then, local business revenues in Riverdale have increased by 40 percent. In order to revitalize our own economy and boost local retail sales, Oakridge should immediately implement a vehicle ban on its main commercial avenue."

2. Argument:

The following was posted on a corporate consultancy blog.

"A comparison between Vanguard Logistics and Apex Freight shows that Vanguard is the superior firm to contract with. Vanguard employs 150 full-time logistics coordinators, while Apex has only 80, many of whom work remotely on a freelance basis. Furthermore, Vanguard's quarterly profit margin was double that of Apex last quarter. When our firm used Apex three years ago, a critical shipment was delayed by two weeks; conversely, when we used Vanguard last month, our delivery arrived three days early. Clearly, Vanguard is the faster and more reliable choice."

3. Argument:

The following was written by a group of investors proposing a new venture to the city of Grandview.

"Opening an indoor rock-climbing gym in Grandview will be exceptionally lucrative. The closest climbing facility is currently 50 miles away, meaning our gym, Peak

Ascent, would completely monopolize the local market. Enthusiasm for outdoor sports is incredibly high here: over 50,000 residents registered for Grandview's annual mountain marathon last autumn, the city boasts three highly active hiking clubs, and the most downloaded app in the region is a trail-mapping software. Peak Ascent is guaranteed to generate massive returns."

4. **Argument:**

The following appeared in an internal memo at Novus Electronics.

"Solas Power, a startup manufacturing eco-friendly solar chargers that currently sells its items exclusively online, possesses immense market potential. Solas saw a 25 percent spike in revenue last year, and its flagship product, the SunPocket, has broken its own sales records for three consecutive years. Because Novus Electronics wants to capture the 18-to-29 demographic—the heaviest users of mobile electronics—we should acquire Solas Power and launch a massive nationwide retail marketing campaign for the SunPocket."

5. **Argument:**

The following appeared in a newsletter from the operations director of Zenith Manufacturing.

"Over the past twelve months, Zenith Manufacturing recorded 40 percent more equipment-related workplace errors than Apex Industrial, which mandates a mandatory 15-minute rest break every three hours. Workplace psychologists note that cognitive fatigue is a major catalyst for operational errors. Therefore, to minimize errors and maximize plant efficiency, we should institute identical 15-minute rest breaks across all shifts so our employees can maintain optimal focus."

6. **Argument:**

The following was written by the regional director of GreenHarvest, a chain of organic grocery stores.

"Our historical data proves that GreenHarvest locations are most profitable in communities with high fitness trends. We should build our next branch in Fairview. Fairview's local bicycle shops report that sales of road bikes and cycling gear are at record heights. Additionally, the community center's swimming pool, which was underutilized a decade ago, is now entirely booked for water aerobics. We can also count on future demographics: Fairview's public schools recently instituted a 'Healthy Habits' cafeteria program prioritizing plant-based nutrition."

7. **Argument:**

The following appeared in an editorial in the Horizon City Business Review.

"In Horizon City, the number of software engineers joining massive tech conglomerates decreased by 20 percent over the past two years, while a growing number accepted roles at boutique tech startups. Even though conglomerates provide significantly higher base salaries, engineers are choosing startups because they offer greater creative autonomy. A survey of engineering undergraduates showed that most rated creative freedom as more critical than starting salary. Thus, tech conglomerates must offer flexible hours and more independent projects to attract top talent."

8. Argument:

The following appeared in a financial investment newsletter.

"With the global population of individuals suffering from chronic back pain projected to rise from 80 million to 120 million over the next decade, medical device companies manufacturing spinal braces will see massive profitability. Many market analysts predict that OrthoTech, makers of the industry-leading 'FlexSpine' brace, will become the most profitable firm in ten years. However, OrthoTech's primary design patent expires in two years, enabling competitors to launch cheaper replicas. Consequently, the top spot will likely go to SpineMed, creator of a new ergonomic brace called 'VerteCore,' which clinical trials show is preferred by 80 percent of patients with severe spinal alignment issues."

9. Argument:

The following is an excerpt from a letter to the editor of the Stone Creek Daily.

"In the upcoming election for county commissioner, citizens should vote for Marcus Vance, an active member of the Clean Water Initiative, instead of the incumbent, Evelyn Rogers. Under the current administration, the number of industrial zoning permits has doubled, local river nitrate levels have climbed, and the regional clinic treated 30 percent more cases of water-borne skin irritation. Electing Marcus Vance will definitively resolve Stone Creek's environmental issues."

10. Argument:

The following appeared in a report from the environmental compliance officer of Silver Valley.

"Three years ago, environmental models predicted that Silver Valley's regional water reservoir would drop to critical levels within four years. However, over the past two years, residents have reduced their household water consumption by 30 percent via smart-meter tracking. Next month, usage should drop even further because the city is implementing a tiered, double-rate pricing structure for excessive water consumption. Furthermore, 95 percent of residents surveyed stated they intended to install low-flow appliances. Due to this widespread public commitment to conservation, our water supply will last significantly longer than originally forecast."