

GRE Analytical Writing

Sample Paper 03

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 abundance of information available through digital media has not created a more enlightened society; instead, it has fostered a culture characterized by misinformation and superficial thinking."

2. **Issue**

"A genuine education is not achieved through the simple memorization of data, but through developing the capacity to challenge existing assumptions and maintain independent thought."

3. **Issue**

"Governments should prioritize rapid economic growth over the protection of the environment, as the resulting prosperity provides the necessary wealth to resolve environmental issues at a later date."

4. **Issue**

"Leaders who consult the opinions of others before reaching a decision demonstrate a lack of strength and decisiveness rather than a sign of wisdom."

5. **Issue**

"Social and institutional progress is best achieved through a process of slow, incremental improvements rooted in logic and discussion, rather than through sudden, radical revolution."

6. Issue

"The primary catalyst for human advancement in fields ranging from the sciences to the arts is competition between individuals, not cooperative effort."

7. Issue

"Innovation is rarely about the creation of something entirely original; it is more often about the clever synthesis of existing concepts to produce new insights."

8. Issue

"The most significant breakthroughs in modern technology and science are the products of collective teamwork rather than the sparks of individual genius."

9. Issue

"Studying history is valuable because it reshapes our thought processes, allowing us to judge contemporary events with a greater understanding of context and historical continuity."

10. Issue

"The relevance of classic literature and fine art is entirely dependent on how well those works mirror the specific values and anxieties of a modern audience."

11. Issue

"Increased discovery in the natural world does not make the universe more understandable; instead, it expands our awareness of how much remains unknown, making the world more mysterious."

Section II: GRE Argument Essay

1. Argument:

The following is from a newsletter distributed to the inhabitants of Greenfield Heights.

"Five years ago, the neighboring town of Lakeview mandated community gardening programs in its residential districts. Since that time, property values in Lakeview have climbed by an average of forty percent. To see similar financial gains in Greenfield Heights, our local council must immediately implement an identical community gardening mandate."

2. Argument:

The following was posted on a commercial review website.

"Between our city's two primary courier firms, SwiftDeliver and RapidPost, SwiftDeliver is clearly the superior choice. SwiftDeliver maintains a staff of over 200 drivers, whereas RapidPost employs only 130, many of whom are part-time contractors. Last year, SwiftDeliver's total revenue was nearly triple that of RapidPost, and its average delivery value was significantly higher. Furthermore, when I used RapidPost for a time-sensitive package, it arrived three days late, while every delivery I have sent via SwiftDeliver has arrived on time or early. Therefore, anyone needing reliable service should use SwiftDeliver."

3. Argument:

The following appeared in a business proposal submitted to a venture capital firm.

"An artisanal tea lounge in Hartwell would be incredibly profitable. The nearest specialty tea shop is 50 miles away, meaning our lounge, The Leaf & Kettle, would face no local competition. Tea culture is clearly growing in Hartwell: over 80,000 people attended the city's food festival last spring, several major tea importers are based here, and a popular radio show features a weekly segment on loose-leaf tea. Finally, studies show tea enthusiasts spend roughly \$800 annually on premium products. Success for this venture is virtually guaranteed."

4. Argument:

The following appeared in a report from the acquisitions team at Vertex Capital.

"Summit Organics, a regional organic snack manufacturer, is an ideal acquisition target. They reported a 25 percent increase in net revenue last quarter, and their primary product, Sunrise Trail Mix, has seen four years of consistent sales growth. Since Vertex Capital wants to reach health-conscious consumers aged 18 to 35—the fastest-growing segment of the organic market—we should acquire Summit Organics and expand the distribution of their products to a national level."

5. Argument:

The following appeared in an internal memo from the director of operations at Crestline Logistics.

"Over the last six months, Crestline Logistics has seen 40 percent more workplace injuries than our competitor, Horizon Freight. Employees at Horizon Freight work shifts that are 90 minutes shorter than ours. Because research indicates that fatigue is a primary cause of accidents, we should reduce all of our daily shifts by 90 minutes to ensure our employees are better rested and safer while on the job."

6. Argument:

The following appeared in a memo from the director of expansion at Vital Roots, a wellness retail chain.

"Our stores are most successful in towns that value healthy living. We should open our next branch in Cedarbrook. Local sales of yoga equipment and organic produce are at record levels. The local wellness center is currently operating at full capacity, and their nutrition workshops are booked weeks in advance. Furthermore, Cedarbrook's schools recently added a 'Wellness for Life' curriculum, ensuring a future generation of health-conscious customers."

7. Argument:

The following appeared in an article regarding legal employment trends.

"In Portmore, the percentage of law graduates joining large corporate firms dropped by 18 percent over four years, while more graduates joined small general practices or legal aid groups. Although large firms offer higher pay, graduates are choosing smaller firms because they seek meaningful work. A survey of final-year law students showed that the majority prioritize a 'sense of purpose' over 'compensation.' To attract top talent, large corporate firms in Portmore must offer more flexibility, mentorship, and opportunities for social impact."

8. Argument:

The following appeared in the investment section of a financial magazine.

"The global number of type 2 diabetes cases is expected to reach 700 million in fifteen years, making diabetes-focused pharma companies great investments. Analysts expect NovaMed Pharmaceuticals to be highly profitable due to its lead drug, GlucoStable. However, GlucoStable's patent expires in four years, allowing for cheaper generic competition. Therefore, Helix Therapeutics is a better investment; they are developing InsureRelief, a new therapy that clinical trials show is preferred by 80 percent of patients with advanced insulin resistance."

9. Argument:

The following is from a letter to the editor of the Riverdale Gazette.

"In the upcoming city council election, residents should vote for Maria Chen of the Clean Futures Alliance instead of the incumbent, Gary Holden. Under Holden's leadership, three public parks were rezoned for commercial use, downtown air quality has worsened, and hospital visits for asthma have increased by 30 percent. Electing Maria Chen is the only way to reverse these trends and restore the environmental health of Riverdale."

10. Argument:

The following appeared in a policy memo from the administrator of Maplewood County.

"Three years ago, analysts predicted the Maplewood waste facility would be full in six years. However, residents have increased paper and plastic recycling by 80 percent since then. Starting next month, we will implement a waste fee based on the volume of non-recyclable trash, which will further encourage waste reduction. A survey also showed 85 percent of residents plan to begin home composting. Because of this commitment to sustainability, the landfill's capacity will last much longer than originally expected."