

GRE Analytical Writing

Sample Paper 04

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 best way for a society to prepare for the future is by studying the lives of its most successful historical leaders, rather than by analyzing current social and economic trends."

2. Issue

"An individual's primary responsibility to their community is to conform to its established norms and values, as true progress comes from social stability rather than disruption."

3. Issue

"The most effective education is one that forces students to master a rigid, pre-determined curriculum rather than allowing them to choose their own fields of interest."

4. Issue

"To understand the true character of a society, one must look at how it treats its most marginalized citizens, not its most successful institutions."

5. Issue

"As international trade and global communication expand, distinct national cultures will inevitably dissolve into a single, uniform global identity."

6. Issue

"The highest virtue of any legal system is consistency; it is better for a law to be strictly applied to everyone than to be adapted to the specific context of an individual case."

7. Issue

"True artistic genius is entirely self-taught; formal training in the arts serves only to suppress original creative impulses."

8. Issue

"Scientific institutions should only fund research that promises immediate, practical benefits to human health or safety, rather than theoretical research driven by curiosity."

9. Issue

"The fast pace of modern life has made it impossible for people to build meaningful, lifelong friendships."

10. Issue

"A government should prioritize funding the preservation of its natural environment over the development of its economic infrastructure."

Section II: GRE Argument Essay

1. Argument:

The following appeared in a memo from the president of Gladstone University to the board of trustees.

"Three years ago, our rival institution, Highpoint College, reduced its tuition rates by 15 percent. Since then, their total enrollment has doubled. In order to increase our own student enrollment and boost the university's revenue, Gladstone University should immediately implement a 15 percent reduction in tuition for all incoming students."

2. Argument:

The following was posted on a fitness and nutrition industry forum.

"When choosing a nationwide gym franchise to invest in, FitLife is clearly a safer bet than PowerGym. FitLife operates 500 locations across the country, whereas PowerGym has only 300, many of whom are closed on weekends. Furthermore, FitLife's corporate profit margin last year was double that of PowerGym, and its standard annual membership costs an average of \$600 compared to PowerGym's \$450. Gyms associated with FitLife retain customers much longer: five years ago, I opened a PowerGym franchise and it closed within a year due to low retention; last year, I opened a FitLife location, and it already has a steady base of 2,000 members. To guarantee a profitable investment, you should choose FitLife."

3. Argument:

The following was written as part of a business proposal submitted to the town council of Maplewood.

"An upscale artisan bakery in Maplewood would be an incredibly lucrative venture. Currently, the closest specialty bakery is 40 miles away; thus, our proposed bakery, The Golden Crust, would have the local luxury baked-goods market entirely to itself. Furthermore, premium baked goods are incredibly popular in Maplewood: over 20,000 people attended the town's annual Autumn Harvest Food Festival, several prominent food bloggers live in Maplewood, and the most watched local television segment is 'Baking with Chef Pierre,' which airs every Sunday morning. A national study also indicates that the typical gourmet food enthusiast spends over \$1,500 per year on specialty artisanal items. The Golden Crust is bound to be a highly profitable business."

4. **Argument:**

The following appeared in a strategic memorandum issued by the executive board of Zenith Beverages.

"Pulse Energy, a manufacturer of natural energy drinks that currently distributes its products to a small, regional network of independent grocery stores, shows massive growth potential. Pulse experienced a 25 percent increase in regional sales last year, and its signature drink, GreenLightning, has seen rising sales for four consecutive years. Because Zenith Beverages is aiming to capture the 16-to-24 age demographic—the demographic that consumes the highest volume of energy drinks—we should buy Pulse Energy and focus heavily on distributing GreenLightning to major supermarket chains nationwide."

5. **Argument:**

The following appeared in a letter from the safety director of Ironclad Shipping.

"During the past year, Ironclad Shipping experienced forty percent more cargo-handling accidents than our competitor, Anchor Maritime, which requires all employees to take a mandatory 30-minute break after every four hours of continuous work. Workplace safety studies suggest that physical exhaustion is a primary driver behind most cargo-handling mishaps. Therefore, to decrease accidents at Ironclad and boost overall operational efficiency, we should mandate a 30-minute break every four hours so our workforce can stay fully alert."

6. **Argument:**

The following appeared in a newsletter written by the marketing director of EcoWear, a retail chain specializing in sustainable, organic clothing.

"Our historical data confirms that our retail stores achieve the highest profitability in areas where residents demonstrate a strong commitment to environmental conservation. We should therefore build our next retail store in Brookside, which has a high concentration of eco-conscious citizens. Brookside merchants report that sales of reusable shopping bags and home composting bins are at an all-time high. Furthermore, the local recycling center, which nearly shut down five years ago due to low participation, is processing record amounts of material. We can also count on a steady pipeline of future buyers: Brookside's school district recently introduced a mandatory 'Green Earth' curriculum that teaches children the importance of reducing their carbon footprint."

7. **Argument:**

The following appeared in an article in a national business magazine.

"In the tech sector, the number of software developers leaving established, multinational corporations to work for remote-first startups increased by 25 percent over the last three years. Even though multinational corporations offer significantly higher base salaries and comprehensive healthcare plans, developers are opting for startups because they prefer the flexibility of working from anywhere. In a survey of recent computer science graduates, the vast majority agreed that location flexibility was more important to them than a high starting salary. This indicates that multinational tech corporations will need to transition to fully remote work models and offer flexible schedules if they hope to recruit top talent."

8. **Argument:**

The following appeared in the healthcare investment section of a financial newspaper.

"Given that the number of people diagnosed with chronic sleep apnea is projected to rise from 20 million to 35 million over the next fifteen years, medical manufacturing companies that produce CPAP machines should experience exceptional profitability. Many analysts believe that SomnoMed, which manufactures the 'RestEasy' machine—the current best-selling treatment on the market—will be the most profitable company in the sector in ten years. However, SomnoMed's core technology patent expires in three years, meaning other companies will be legally allowed to produce cheaper generic versions of the machine. Thus, it is highly likely that in ten years the most profitable company will actually be Nocturnal Care, the creator of a new, silent CPAP device called 'AeroBreathe,' which clinical trials show is preferred by eight out of ten patients suffering from severe sleep apnea."

9. **Argument:**

The following appeared in a letter to the editor of the Oakbury Herald.

"In the upcoming city council election, residents of Oakbury should vote for Diana Vance, an active leader in the Clean Air Coalition, rather than incumbent Councilman Arthur Pendelton. Under the current council's watch, the number of industrial warehouses in Oakbury has doubled, recorded smog levels have steadily climbed, and the local pediatric clinic has reported a 30 percent increase in children treated for asthma attacks. If we elect Diana Vance, Oakbury's environmental problems will undoubtedly be solved."

10. **Argument:**

The following appeared in a memo from the town manager of Silver Creek.

"Two years ago, environmental engineers predicted that Silver Creek's primary underground aquifer would dry up within six years due to over-extraction. Over the past two years, however, town residents have reduced their household water usage by half compared to previous years. Next month, water conservation is expected to increase even further because the town council is doubling the residential water utility rates. Furthermore, over eighty-five percent of residents who responded to a recent town survey stated that they intended to buy water-efficient appliances in the near future. Because of our community's strong dedication to conservation, our local water supply will last significantly longer than the engineers originally predicted."