

GRE Analytical Writing

Sample Paper 05

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 benchmark for evaluating the success of any educational institution should be the career placement rates and salary metrics of its graduates, rather than its academic prestige or theoretical research contributions."

2. Issue

"Societal progress is driven far more by individuals who aggressively challenge established legal systems and ethical boundaries than by those who work within existing legal mechanisms to seek incremental change."

3. Issue

"To foster maximum innovation, corporate and academic institutions must heavily disincentivize specialized experts from remaining within a single field, instead mandating periodic transitions into completely foreign disciplines."

4. Issue

"The measure of a truly progressive nation is found in its long-term investment in historical conservation and classical cultural institutions, rather than its funding of modern commercial infrastructure."

5. Issue

"As digital automation and algorithms assume greater control over daily societal

governance, the human capacity for nuanced administrative judgment and objective empathy will inevitably collapse.”

6. **Issue**

”The true value of public statistics and data collection is not to help governments design predictive public policies, but to allow individual citizens to scrutinize and check state power.”

7. **Issue**

”Exceptional scientific breakthrough is rarely a product of collaborative group consensus; it is almost universally achieved by nonconformist thinkers operating in direct defiance of contemporary institutional peer review.”

8. **Issue**

”Governments should strictly restrict environmental funding to local, immediate conservation efforts within their own national borders, rather than committing resources to international climate compacts.”

9. **Issue**

”The ubiquitous nature of virtual communication has completely dismantled the psychological foundations necessary for communities to form authentic, lasting social trust.”

10. **Issue**

”A democratic government must prioritize shielding its citizens from economic hardship and corporate volatility over protecting individual liberties and absolute market freedom.”

Section II: GRE Argument Essay

1. **Argument:**

The following appeared in a memo from the regional director of VeloExpress Courier Services to the executive board.

”Three years ago, our primary competitor, SwiftDelivery, swapped its entire fleet of gas-powered urban delivery vans for electric cargo bicycles. Since then, their package processing speed has increased by 35 percent and their operating costs have dropped significantly. In order to reclaim our market share, lower overhead expenditures, and accelerate delivery times, VeloExpress should immediately replace our delivery vans with an identical fleet of electric cargo bicycles across all metropolitan hubs.”

2. **Argument:**

The following was posted on a venture capital investment forum.

”When selecting an e-learning platform startup to invest capital into, EduStream is unquestionably a safer and more lucrative bet than CoreAcademy. EduStream hosts over 1,200 active courses on its platform, while CoreAcademy offers only 400, many of which are unavailable during corporate holidays. Furthermore, EduStream’s recorded profit margin last fiscal year was double that of CoreAcademy, and its monthly subscription fee averages \$45 compared to CoreAcademy’s \$25. Platforms

structured like EduStream maintain user engagement much longer: four years ago, I funded a startup styled after CoreAcademy and it collapsed within eight months due to poor user retention; conversely, I backed an EduStream clone last year and it has already reached 50,000 active subscribers. To guarantee high investment returns, choose EduStream.”

3. Argument:

The following was written as part of a commercial real estate development proposal submitted to the municipal council of Riverbend.

”Opening a high-end specialty coffee roastery in Riverbend will be an extraordinarily profitable venture. Currently, the nearest artisanal coffeehouse is over 35 miles away; thus, our proposed establishment, Obsidian Roast, will hold a complete monopoly over the local luxury coffee market. Furthermore, consumer interest in premium beverages is exceptionally high in Riverbend: more than 15,000 people attended the city’s annual Summer Wine & Craft Festival, several prominent culinary influencers reside in Riverbend, and the highest-rated local morning radio segment is ‘Barista Secrets,’ which airs every Friday. A comprehensive market study also indicates that the average premium beverage enthusiast spends over \$1,200 annually on specialty items. Obsidian Roast is destined to become a highly lucrative enterprise.”

4. Argument:

The following appeared in a strategic memorandum issued by the board of directors at Solis Nutra.

”AquaHydrate, a manufacturer of electrolyte-infused recovery waters that currently distributes its products exclusively to a small network of independent boutique yoga studios, possesses immense scaling potential. AquaHydrate saw a 30 percent spike in local sales last year, and its primary drink, HydroBoost, has broken its own revenue records for three consecutive years. Because Solis Nutra is aiming to capture the 18-to-25 demographic—the consumer group that purchases the highest volume of sports supplements—we should acquire AquaHydrate and focus our efforts on distributing HydroBoost to major nationwide fitness club chains.”

5. Argument:

The following appeared in a letter from the safety and compliance officer of Apex Manufacturing.

”During the last twelve months, Apex Manufacturing recorded 45 percent more industrial machinery accidents than our competitor, Titan Industrial, which enforces a mandatory 20-minute rest period after every three hours of continuous line operations. Behavioral ergonomics studies indicate that physical exhaustion and repetitive task fatigue are the primary catalysts for heavy machinery mishaps. Therefore, to reduce industrial accidents at Apex and optimize overall assembly efficiency, we should mandate a 20-minute break every three hours so our workforce can maintain peak alertness.”

6. Argument:

The following appeared in a newsletter written by the expansion director of TerraFoods, a supermarket chain specializing in locally sourced organic produce.

”Our historical corporate data proves that our grocery stores yield the highest net profitability in municipalities where residents demonstrate an active commitment to

holistic health trends. We should consequently construct our next retail location in the town of Oakridge. Oakridge merchants report that sales of high-end running shoes and home water-filtration systems are at all-time high. Furthermore, the local municipal park, which saw low utilization a decade ago, is now entirely booked for community outdoor yoga sessions. We can also depend on a reliable pipeline of future consumers: the Oakridge school board recently implemented a mandatory 'Nutritional Literacy' curriculum that instructs students on the environmental benefits of plant-based diets."

7. Argument:

The following appeared in an article in a national human resources magazine.

"In the financial services sector, the number of senior analysts leaving established Wall Street investment firms to work for boutique, remote-only asset management firms increased by 30 percent over the past two years. Even though traditional investment banks offer substantially higher performance bonuses and premium health insurance plans, analysts are selecting boutique firms because they value the flexibility of working from any geographic location. In a survey administered to recent finance graduates, the vast majority answered that spatial and location flexibility was a higher priority than an elevated starting base salary. This trend indicates that traditional investment banks must transition to fully remote work options if they intend to successfully recruit top-tier talent."

8. Argument:

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

"Given that the global demographic of patients diagnosed with chronic insulin resistance is projected to increase from 40 million to 65 million over the next decade, medical manufacturing firms that produce continuous glucose monitors (CGMs) will experience unparalleled profitability. Many industry analysts argue that Glucotech, which produces the 'GlucoTrack' monitor—the current top-selling device on the market—will emerge as the most profitable corporation in the sector in ten years. However, Glucotech's core data-syncing patent expires in three years, which will legally permit competitors to manufacture cheap generic replicas of the monitor. Thus, it is highly probable that the top spot will actually be secured by BioSens, the creator of a new, non-invasive monitor called 'DermalSense,' which initial clinical trials reveal is preferred by nine out of ten patients suffering from severe diabetes."

9. Argument:

The following appeared in a letter to the editor of the Stonegate Guardian.

"In the upcoming municipal election, residents of Stonegate should cast their votes for Raymond Vance, an active coordinator for the Clean Water Coalition, instead of incumbent Councilman Walter Sterling. Under the current council's oversight, the number of heavy industrial zoning permits in Stonegate has doubled, verified river toxin levels have steadily risen, and the local pediatric medical facility has reported a 30 percent spike in children treated for chemical dermatological reactions. If we elect Raymond Vance, Stonegate's environmental challenges will undoubtedly be resolved."

10. **Argument:**

The following appeared in a memo from the town manager of Green Valley.

"Two years ago, geological engineers projected that Green Valley's primary subterranean water table would deplete entirely within five years due to municipal over-extraction. Over the past two years, however, town residents have lowered their household water usage by exactly half compared to historical averages. Next month, conservation metrics are anticipated to intensify even further because the town council is doubling the residential water utility rates for excessive consumption. Furthermore, over eighty-five percent of residents who answered a recent municipal survey stated that they plan to purchase water-efficient smart appliances in the near future. Because of our community's demonstrable dedication to conservation, our local water supply will endure significantly longer than the engineers originally forecast."

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