

GRE Analytical Writing

Sample Paper 8

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 most significant metric of educational success is a system's capacity to foster independent problem-solving skills rather than its ability to impart a standardized body of knowledge."

2. **Issue**

"Societal advancement is driven more effectively by citizens who challenge prevailing laws and customs than by those who seek consensus within existing social orders."

3. **Issue**

"To understand the actual values of a contemporary culture, one should analyze its common architectural choices rather than its celebrated literature and academic achievements."

4. **Issue**

"Governments should restrict funding for public infrastructure projects to those that offer immediate economic utility rather than those that prioritize aesthetic and cultural value."

5. **Issue**

"The most reliable leaders are those who rely strictly on objective data analysis rather than those who are guided by personal moral and philosophical convictions."

6. Issue

"A person can gain a truer understanding of a foreign nation by studying its economic history than by experiencing its modern day-to-day lifestyle."

7. Issue

"Large institutional frameworks naturally stifle creative progress by requiring individuals to operate within highly regulated, routine parameters."

8. Issue

"The ultimate obligation of a public university is to maximize the regional employment rate rather than to provide students with a comprehensive liberal arts background."

9. Issue

"An overemphasis on mass production and low retail costs has systematically degraded the long-term durability and craftsmanship of everyday consumer products."

10. Issue

"A nation's legal framework becomes dangerously counterproductive if it cannot be dynamically reinterpreted to mirror evolving societal consensus on equity."

Section II: GRE Argument Essay**1. Argument:**

The following appeared in a memorandum from the planning commissioner of Westport.

"Ten years ago, Westport implemented a dedicated bus rapid transit lane through the center of its commercial district. Since then, total annual retail sales along that transit corridor have grown by 30 percent, and municipal air monitoring stations have recorded a drop in localized carbon monoxide spikes. To expand economic prosperity and reduce environmental pollution across the remaining areas of Westport, the city council should allocate next year's entire infrastructure development budget to installing identical bus transit lanes throughout all suburban residential sectors."

2. Argument:

The following was published in a corporate operational review by the human resources director of Lumina Tech.

"Last year, Lumina Tech transitioned its customer service department from a traditional five-day, in-office schedule to a mandatory four-day compressed work week with remote flexibility. Following this policy change, the customer service division logged a 20 percent decrease in worker absenteeism, and the volume of client inquiries resolved per month increased noticeably. To drastically maximize worker productivity, minimize corporate utility overhead, and eliminate employee turnover across the entire organization, Lumina Tech should immediately mandate this four-day remote work model for all engineering, accounting, and product manufacturing divisions."

3. Argument:

The following appeared in a newsletter published by a regional real estate investment trust.

"Financing a premium organic pet daycare and grooming facility in the affluent suburban township of Oakhaven will yield exceptionally high financial returns. Currently, the nearest specialized pet resort is located over 35 miles away, ensuring that a new upscale facility will establish an absolute monopoly over the local luxury pet care market. Furthermore, interest in animal welfare is exceptionally high in Oakhaven: the municipal dog registry has grown by 50 percent over the past three years, more than 4,000 residents attended the local 'Strut Your Mutt' charity walk last month, and the most active online neighborhood forum is 'Healthy Paws Oakhaven.' Backing this facility guarantees high profitability."

4. Argument:

The following appeared in a workplace safety memo from the operations manager of SwiftCargo Delivery Services.

"During the last fiscal year, SwiftCargo drivers were involved in 40 percent more vehicular collisions than our direct competitor, National Freight. National Freight mandates that all their cargo handlers and distribution drivers complete an intensive defensive driving seminar every six months. Behavioral ergonomics research demonstrates that routine traffic safety instruction significantly decreases erratic maneuvers caused by professional operator fatigue. Therefore, to lower our collision rates and maximize operational fleet efficiency, SwiftCargo should immediately require all warehouse personnel and delivery staff to complete an identical defensive driving seminar twice a year."

5. Argument:

The following appeared in an investment recommendation report from a medical market analyst.

"Over the next decade, the global population of elderly individuals requiring advanced orthopedic intervention is projected to double. Consequently, healthcare technology companies that manufacture synthetic knee replacement joints will experience immense market profitability. Many analysts expect JointTech—the leading domestic supplier of medical implants—to become the most profitable firm in this sector. However, JointTech's premier material patent will expire in three years, enabling competitors to sell exact generic replicas. Therefore, investors should instead buy stock in MoveMed, which has recently developed a new bio-compatible joint gel that initial clinical trials show 95 percent of patients prefer over traditional joint implants."

6. Argument:

The following appeared in a memorandum from the director of human resources at Nova Manufacturing.

"Three years ago, our primary competitor, Apex Industrial, transitioned its main product-testing facilities from human-operated inspection lines to automated algorithmic scanner systems. Since then, their average component-testing times have decreased by 40 percent and their local warehouse product defect rates have dropped significantly. In order to reclaim our lost market share, lower overhead expenditures,

and drastically optimize delivery speeds, Nova should immediately replace our human testing staff with identical automated algorithmic scanner systems across all major plants.”

7. Argument:

The following was posted on an online venture capital network forum.

”When selecting an enterprise inventory-management platform startup to back financially, StockShield is a safer and more lucrative option than TrackSync. StockShield actively maintains over 950 corporate warehouse partnerships, whereas TrackSync records only 350, many of which remain completely inactive during major regional holiday weekends. Furthermore, StockShield’s net profit margin last fiscal year was double that of TrackSync, and its standard annual licensing fee averages \$85 per user compared to TrackSync’s \$45. Software architectures optimized like StockShield’s retain enterprise clients far longer: four years ago, I financed a platform structured precisely like TrackSync and it went bankrupt within a year due to poor client retention; conversely, I backed a StockShield clone last year and it has already reached 90,000 active corporate users. To secure a high return on investment, select StockShield.”

8. Argument:

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

”Opening an upscale specialty chocolate and pastry boutique in Oakhaven will be an exceptionally profitable venture. Currently, the nearest gourmet dessert shop is located over 45 miles away; thus, our proposed establishment, The Velvet Truffle, will command an absolute monopoly over the local luxury culinary market. Furthermore, public enthusiasm for premium food items is incredibly high in Oakhaven: more than 16,000 residents attended the town’s annual Autumn Harvest Food and Wine Gala, several prominent culinary influencers live in the downtown district, and the highest-rated local weekend radio segment is ‘Gourmet Entertaining,’ which airs every Saturday morning. A major national consumer index also notes that the typical specialty food enthusiast spends over \$1,500 annually on premium artisanal items. The Velvet Truffle is guaranteed to generate immense profits.”

9. Argument:

The following appeared in a corporate strategy memo distributed by the executive board of PureLife Organics.

”NaturaPulse, a manufacturer of organic cold-pressed wellness shots that currently distributes its products exclusively to a small, select network of high-end luxury wellness resorts, exhibits immense scaling potential. NaturaPulse recorded a 30 percent spike in regional sales last year, and its signature product, GingerShield, has broken its own retail sales records for three consecutive years. Because PureLife Organics is explicitly aiming to capture the 18-to-30 age demographic—the consumer group that purchases the highest per-capita volume of holistic health supplements—we should acquire NaturaPulse and focus our immediate capital on distributing GingerShield to major supermarket chains nationwide.”

10. Argument:

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

”During the past twelve months, Vanguard Manufacturing recorded 45 percent more industrial machinery accidents than our close competitor, Apex Foundries, which strictly enforces a mandatory 20-minute rest break after every three hours of continuous line operations. Ergonomic behavioral 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 plant productivity, we should immediately implement an identical policy of 20-minute breaks every three hours so our machinery operators can maintain optimal alertness.”

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