

GRE Analytical Writing

Sample Paper 9

A) Subject: Analytical Writing Assessment (AWA)

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**

"Academic institutions should base research funding entirely on public societal consensus rather than on peer review boards."

2. **Issue**

"The proliferation of automated tracking tools has compromised individual personal autonomy far more than it has improved corporate efficiency."

3. **Issue**

"An organization's long-term health depends on its willingness to routinely dismantle its core operational frameworks."

4. **Issue**

"A community should measure its historical preservation success by its architectural conservation rather than its cultural archives."

5. **Issue**

"The most reliable modern leaders are those who rely on technical data models rather than those guided by personal experience."

6. **Issue**

"A person can gain a more authentic understanding of an unfamiliar culture by analyzing its legal regulations than its artistic works."

7. Issue

"Large public systems inherently inhibit administrative progress by requiring workers to strictly adhere to standardized operating procedures."

8. Issue

"The ultimate obligation of higher education is to optimize local workforce capabilities rather than to broaden academic knowledge."

9. Issue

"The prioritization of continuous digital connectivity has severely undermined the psychological depth of human relationships."

10. Issue

"A sovereign government must protect its critical domestic supply lines from foreign market forces even at the cost of global free trade."

Section II: GRE Argument Essay

1. Argument:

The following appeared in a memorandum from the logistics director of Apex Delivery Services.

"Two years ago, our regional rival, SwiftParcel, equipped its local distribution fleet with predictive route-optimization software. Since then, their average package transit durations have decreased by 25 percent and their fuel expenses have dropped substantially. In order to reclaim our lost regional market share, minimize company overhead, and maximize our delivery speeds, Apex should immediately implement identical route-optimization software across all municipal sorting hubs."

2. Argument:

The following was posted on an online agricultural investment forum.

"When selecting an agricultural technology startup to finance, CropShield is a much safer and more lucrative option than TerraSync. CropShield currently maintains over 800 active corporate farm partnerships, whereas TerraSync records only 300, many of which fail to order supplies during major seasonal planting windows. Furthermore, CropShield's net profit margin last fiscal year was double that of TerraSync, and its standard annual software licensing fee averages \$120 per user compared to TerraSync's \$60. Software platforms optimized like CropShield's retain agricultural clients much longer: five years ago, I financed a startup structured precisely like TerraSync and it went bankrupt within a year due to poor client retention; conversely, I backed a CropShield clone last year and it has already reached 75,000 active users. To secure a high return on investment, select CropShield."

3. Argument:

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

"Opening an upscale specialty coffee roasting house and artisanal bakery in Riverdale will be an exceptionally profitable venture. Currently, the nearest specialty coffee

roaster is located over 50 miles away; thus, our proposed establishment, The Roasting Bean, will command an absolute monopoly over the local luxury beverage market. Furthermore, public enthusiasm for premium culinary experiences is incredibly high in Riverdale: more than 12,000 residents attended the city's annual Summer Food Truck Festival, several prominent lifestyle influencers live in the waterfront district, and the highest-rated local weekend radio segment is 'Gourmet Mornings,' which airs every Sunday. A national consumer index also notes that the typical specialty coffee enthusiast spends over \$1,200 annually on premium artisanal beans. The Roasting Bean is guaranteed to generate immense profits."

4. **Argument:**

The following appeared in a strategic memo distributed by the executive board of Orion Health Corp.

"NaturaBlend, a manufacturer of organic herbal protein blends that currently distributes its products exclusively to a small, select network of luxury athletic country clubs, exhibits immense scaling potential. NaturaBlend recorded a 35 percent spike in regional sales last year, and its signature product, GreensShield, has broken its own retail sales records for three consecutive years. Because Orion Health Corp is explicitly aiming to capture the 18-to-30 age demographic—the consumer group that purchases the highest per-capita volume of holistic wellness supplements—we should acquire NaturaBlend and focus our immediate capital on distributing GreensShield to major supermarket chains nationwide."

5. **Argument:**

The following appeared in a safety newsletter from the operations director at CoreSteel Foundries.

"During the past twelve months, CoreSteel recorded 50 percent more heavy machinery accidents than our competitor, Titan Alloys, which strictly enforces a mandatory 15-minute rest break after every two hours of continuous line operations. Behavioral industrial studies show that repetitive task fatigue and physical exhaustion are the primary catalysts for warehouse equipment accidents. Therefore, to minimize workplace mishaps at CoreSteel and maximize plant productivity, we should immediately implement an identical policy of 15-minute breaks every two hours so our machinery operators can maintain optimal alertness."

6. **Argument:**

The following appeared in a report written by the expansion director of EarthFirst Apparel, a clothing retailer specializing in sustainable, organic fabrics.

"Our historical corporate data proves that our retail clothing branches yield their highest net profits in municipalities where residents display an active commitment to ecological conservation. We should therefore build our next storefront in the town of Silverton. Silverton retailers report that sales of home composting kits and reusable glass storage containers are at an all-time high. Furthermore, the local conservation center, which suffered from low community engagement a decade ago, is now fully booked for weekend volunteer tree-planting events. We can also count on a reliable pipeline of future buyers: the Silverton school board recently implemented a mandatory 'Ecological Citizenship' curriculum that teaches children the importance of reducing plastic waste. Building a branch in Silverton is a clear path to high revenue."

7. Argument:

The following appeared in an article in a national business and employment review.

"In the corporate law sector, the number of senior attorneys leaving prestigious, multinational firms to work for boutique, remote-only legal agencies increased by 35 percent over the past two years. Even though traditional multinational firms offer significantly higher baseline salaries and robust corporate partnership tracks, attorneys are choosing boutique firms because they heavily prioritize the freedom of working from any geographic location. In a recent survey administered to top-tier law school graduates, the vast majority answered that geographic flexibility was a significantly higher priority than an elevated starting base salary. This clear trend indicates that multinational law firms must transition to fully remote operational models if they intend to successfully recruit top-tier talent."

8. Argument:

The following appeared in the medical investment analysis section of a global financial newsletter.

"Given that the global demographic of individuals diagnosed with chronic sleep apnea is projected to rise from 20 million to 45 million over the next decade, medical device companies manufacturing advanced CPAP micro-ventilators will experience exceptional profitability. Many market analysts predict that AeroBreathing, which manufactures the 'RestEasy' device—the current best-selling treatment on the market—will emerge as the most profitable firm in the sector in ten years. However, AeroBreathing's core airflow patent expires in two years, which will legally permit competitors to launch cheap generic duplicates of the device. Thus, it is highly probable that the top spot will actually be secured by SomnoTech, the creator of a new, ultra-silent micro-ventilator called 'SilentAir,' which initial clinical trials reveal is preferred by nine out of ten patients suffering from severe nighttime respiratory discomfort."

9. Argument:

The following appeared in a letter to the editor of the Oakridge Gazette.

"In the upcoming municipal election, residents of Oakridge should cast their votes for Julian Vance, a dedicated advocate for the Clean Water Taskforce, instead of the incumbent city councilman, Donald Sterling. Under Councilman Sterling's oversight, the number of industrial zoning permits in Oakridge has doubled, verified chemical runoff levels have steadily climbed, and the local pediatric clinic has reported a 35 percent spike in children treated for acute chemical rash. If we elect Julian Vance, Oakridge's public environmental challenges will undoubtedly be completely resolved."

10. Argument:

The following appeared in a memo from the town administrator of Pine Valley.

"Two years ago, environmental engineering models predicted that Pine Valley's primary underground fresh-water aquifer would deplete entirely within four years due to over-extraction. Over the past two years, however, town residents have reduced their total household water consumption by exactly 45 percent compared to historical averages. Next month, usage metrics are anticipated to drop even further because the town council is doubling the residential utility rates for excessive water

consumption. Furthermore, over eighty-five percent of residents who responded to a recent town survey stated that they intend to install high-efficiency water-saving fixtures in the near future. Because of our community's demonstrable dedication to conservation, our local water supply will last significantly longer than the engineers originally forecast."

