

## Tips for taking the ACT Writing test

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- 1) You have 40 minutes to write an essay response to a single prompt.
- 2) The prompt defines an issue and describes three perspectives on that issue. You must choose a position for your response. You can adopt one of the perspectives described in the prompt or present a different point of view on the issue.
- 3) Plan your response in the Writing Test Booklet.
  - Carefully consider the prompt and be sure to understand the issue—reread if necessary.
  - Use the Prewriting Questions to help you analyze the perspectives and develop your own.
  - Jot down ideas: a list of reasons and examples to use to explain your point of view on the issue.
  - Write down what others might say in opposition to your point of view and plan how to refute their arguments.
  - Think of how best to organize the essay.
- 4) Write the full essay on the lined pages in the answer folder.
  - Do not skip lines and do not write in the margins.
  - Write legibly, in English, with a No. 2 pencil. Do not use ink, a mechanical pencil, or correction fluid.
  - Evaluate the perspectives given. State your point of view in a clear and logical way. Explain the relationship between your perspective and those given.
  - Stay focused on the topic.
  - Discuss the issue in a broader context or evaluate the implications or complications of the issue.
  - Address what others might say to refute your point of view and present a counterargument.
  - Use specific examples.
  - Vary the structure of your sentences, and use varied and precise word choices.
  - Make logical relationships clear by using transitional words and phrases.
  - End with a strong conclusion that summarizes or reinforces your position.
- 5) If possible, before time is called, recheck your work:
  - Correct any mistakes in grammar, usage, punctuation, and spelling.
  - Recopy words that are difficult to read so that readers can read them easily.
  - Make any corrections and revisions neatly, between the lines (but not in the margins).

<http://www.actstudent.org/testprep/tips/writing-test.html>