

Praxis Core Writing Essay Examples

Prompt 2

30 minutes

Directions:

The following assignment requires you to use information from two sources to discuss concerns that relate to a specific issue. When paraphrasing or quoting from the two sources, cite each source used by referring to the author's last name, the title, or any other clear identifier.

Assignment:

Read the two passages carefully and then write an essay in which you identify the most important concerns regarding the issue and explain why they are important. Your essay must draw on information from BOTH of the sources. In addition, you may draw on your own experiences, observations, or readings. Be sure to CITE the sources whether you are paraphrasing or directly quoting.

PASSAGE 1

Adapted from: Dan John, "Coronavirus Makes Voting by Mail Even More Important," USA Today, "Coronavirus: State News Information Network," 16 June 2020, www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/todaydebate/2020/06/15/coronavirus-pandemic-makes-mail-voting-even-more-important-editorials-debate/3336826002/.

Coronavirus makes voting by mail even more important

Less than five months until Election Day, there's a surprisingly fierce debate over mail-in balloting, driven largely by an unpopular president apparently worried that too many people will not vote.

But Trump's opponents about the issue don't stand up to even casual scrutiny. The first is, Trump himself votes by mail. All 50 states allow it to some degree.

A pandemic makes mail-in voting even more important. In April, after the Wisconsin Supreme Court blocked the governor's effort because of the pandemic, people still feared the polls in record numbers. Online voting is proven convenient (COVID-19).

Since the coronavirus outbreak, election officials across the country have expanded access to absentee voting for primaries.

But Trump continues to make false allegations that states are sending mail-in ballots to noncitizens or people who aren't registered to vote.

That head-wrapping would be laughable if Trump wasn't then claiming to "hold up" federal funding when battleground states are increasing voting by mail. The Republican Party is investing millions on challenges to vote-by-mail initiatives.

The reality is that mail voting is proven to be in a crisis, and the risks of fraud are tiny. A Washington Post analysis that month showed that in those vote-by-mail states, there were 372 questionable ballots out of 14.6 million cast, or 0.0025%.

To be sure, states need to adopt adequate safeguards as they race to expand such voting. Ballot return envelopes should require the voter's signature and include a unique bar code.

Reprinted by <https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/todaydebate/2020/06/15/coronavirus-pandemic-makes-mail-voting-even-more-important-editorials-debate/3336826002/>

Praxis Core Writing Essay Examples are an essential component for educators looking to assess their writing skills as part of the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators (Core) assessment. The writing section of the Praxis Core is designed to measure your ability to write effectively, which is crucial for success in educational environments. In this article, we will explore the structure of the Praxis Core Writing test, provide examples of essay prompts, and offer tips and strategies to help you succeed in this important assessment.

Understanding the Praxis Core Writing Test

The Praxis Core Writing test consists of two main components: the multiple-choice section and the essay section. The essay section, also known as the "text-based writing" section, requires you to write two essays in response to specific prompts. Understanding the format and requirements of this section is crucial for success.

Components of the Praxis Core Writing Test

1. Multiple-Choice Questions: This section tests your understanding of grammar, usage, and mechanics as well as your ability to revise and improve writing.
2. Essay Writing: You will be required to write two essays:
 - Argumentative Essay: You will be given a prompt and asked to take a stance on an issue, providing evidence to support your position.
 - Analytical Essay: This essay requires you to analyze a given text, discussing its themes, arguments, and effectiveness.

Both essays are scored on a scale of 1 to 6, with 6 being the highest score. The essays are evaluated based on several criteria, including organization, development of ideas, language use, and adherence to conventions of standard written English.

Types of Essay Prompts

The Praxis Core writing prompts can vary widely, but they often fall into specific categories that test your critical thinking and writing abilities. Here are some common types of prompts you might encounter:

Argumentative Essay Prompts

1. Social Issues: Discuss the impact of technology on social interactions.
2. Education: Should standardized testing be abolished in schools? Why or why not?
3. Environmental Concerns: Is climate change the most pressing issue of our time? Support your argument with evidence.

Analytical Essay Prompts

1. Literary Analysis: Analyze the effectiveness of a specific literary device in a given passage.
2. Persuasive Texts: Evaluate the arguments presented in a speech or editorial. How effective is the author's argument?
3. Historical Documents: Discuss the significance of a historical document in shaping contemporary society.

Essay Writing Strategies

To excel in the Praxis Core writing section, it's important to employ effective writing strategies. Here are some tips to help you craft strong essays:

Pre-Writing Techniques

1. Understand the Prompt: Carefully read the prompt and ensure you understand what is being asked before you start writing.
2. Brainstorm Ideas: Take a few minutes to jot down your thoughts, arguments, or points you want to make. This will help you organize your essay.
3. Create an Outline: Draft a simple outline to structure your essay. Include your thesis statement, main points, and supporting details.

Writing the Essay

1. Clear Thesis Statement: Start with a strong thesis statement that clearly presents your position or main argument.
2. Organized Structure: Follow a clear structure with an introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion:
 - Introduction: Introduce the topic and present your thesis.
 - Body Paragraphs: Each paragraph should focus on a single point that supports your thesis. Use evidence and examples to back up your claims.
 - Conclusion: Summarize your main points and restate your thesis in a new way.
3. Use Transitional Phrases: To ensure your essay flows smoothly, use transitional phrases to connect your ideas. For example:
 - Additionally
 - Furthermore
 - In contrast
 - Therefore

Post-Writing Techniques

1. Revise and Edit: If time permits, review your essay for clarity, coherence, and grammar. Look for any errors in punctuation, spelling, or sentence structure.
2. Practice Writing: Familiarize yourself with the types of prompts you may encounter by practicing writing essays on various topics.
3. Seek Feedback: Share your practice essays with peers or mentors to get constructive feedback.

Examples of Praxis Core Writing Essays

To further illustrate how to approach the Praxis Core writing section, here are examples of how to respond to typical prompts.

Example 1: Argumentative Essay

Prompt: Should standardized testing be abolished in schools? Why or why not?

Response Outline:

- Introduction: Introduce the issue of standardized testing and state your thesis: Standardized testing should be abolished because it does not accurately reflect students' abilities and creates unnecessary stress.
- Body Paragraph 1: Discuss how standardized tests can be biased against certain groups of students, leading to inequitable outcomes.
- Body Paragraph 2: Argue that standardized tests do not measure critical thinking or creativity,

which are essential skills for success in the modern world.

- Body Paragraph 3: Highlight the stress and anxiety that standardized testing places on students and the negative impact this can have on their overall learning experience.

- Conclusion: Reiterate your thesis and emphasize the need for alternative assessment methods that promote a more holistic view of student abilities.

Example 2: Analytical Essay

Prompt: Analyze the effectiveness of metaphor in the following passage: "The world is a stage, and we are merely players."

Response Outline:

- Introduction: Introduce the metaphor and its significance, presenting a thesis that argues the metaphor effectively conveys the transient nature of life.

- Body Paragraph 1: Explain the meaning of the metaphor and how it relates to the human experience of life as a performance.

- Body Paragraph 2: Discuss the implications of viewing life in this way, including how it can lead to a sense of detachment or fatalism.

- Body Paragraph 3: Provide examples from literature or real life that illustrate the metaphor's relevance to the human condition.

- Conclusion: Summarize your analysis and reaffirm the effectiveness of the metaphor in expressing complex ideas about life and existence.

Conclusion

In summary, the Praxis Core Writing section is an important assessment tool that evaluates your writing abilities and critical thinking skills. By understanding the structure of the test, familiarizing yourself with common essay prompts, and employing effective writing strategies, you can enhance your chances of success. Practicing with essay examples and seeking feedback will also help you refine your writing skills. With preparation and diligence, you can approach the Praxis Core Writing assessment with confidence, paving the way for your future in education.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Praxis Core Writing Test and what does it assess?

The Praxis Core Writing Test measures a test taker's writing skills, focusing on the ability to write effectively in academic and professional contexts. It assesses grammar, organization, and clarity in writing.

How many essays are required in the Praxis Core Writing Test?

The Praxis Core Writing Test requires test takers to complete two essays: an argumentative essay and an informative/explanatory essay.

What are some key components to include in a Praxis Core writing essay?

Key components include a clear thesis statement, well-organized paragraphs, supporting evidence, proper grammar and punctuation, and a strong conclusion.

Can you provide an example topic for a Praxis Core writing essay?

An example topic could be: 'Discuss the impact of technology on education. Provide examples to support your argument.'

How can I effectively prepare for the Praxis Core Writing Test?

Effective preparation can include practicing writing essays on various topics, reviewing grammar rules, reading high-scoring sample essays, and taking practice tests.

Where can I find sample essays for the Praxis Core Writing Test?

Sample essays can be found in study guides, prep books, educational websites, and official Praxis test prep resources that provide examples of high-scoring responses.

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