

Writing Assignment 2 (High Stakes)

Present Your Perspective on a Technological Issue

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Your second writing assignment, you have to present your personal perspective to a social technological issue assigned by your instructor. As part of this social technology writing assignment, you have to visit a part of the community to collect information about the technology issue and create supporting ideas to defend your perspective. You can also get information from the internet or library citations as data and statistics to help in your discussion. All the information obtained by the media mentioned must be documented as citations in your writing assignment.

You are not required to do an extensive work on your project, but still you need to have good supports on your arguments, good organization, and noteworthy ideas. Your purpose of your issue is to determine how well you can develop a compelling argument supporting your own perspective on a technological issue and propose solutions to it as an engineering technology student

THE TECHNOLOGICAL ISSUE

With the blossoming of the internet, traditional libraries are obsolete. Students should not be forced to learn traditional research skills, and public libraries should be demolished and the lands they stand on used for more efficient public purposes.

PREPARING YOUR PERSPECTIVE

You will not be expected to know specific critical thinking or writing terms or strategies; instead, you should be able to use reasons, evidence, and examples to support your position on an issue. Suppose, for instance, that an issue topic asks you consider whether it is important for government to provide financial support public libraries. If your position is that government should fund public libraries, you might support your position by discussing the reasons public libraries is important and explain that libraries are public places where resources is available to anyone. On the other hand, if your position is that government should not support public libraries, you might point out that, given limited governmental funds, public libraries are not as deserving of governmental funding as are other, more socially important, institutions.

Or, if you are in favor of government funding for public libraries only under certain conditions, you might focus on the technology criteria, cultural concerns, or economic conditions that you think should determine how – or whether – public libraries receive government funds. It is not your position that matters so much as the critical thinking skills you display in developing your position.

An excellent way to prepare for the issue task is to practice writing on some of the published topics, but remember: you are not allowed to copy and paste information from the internet or from a document written by another person. There is no “best” approach: some people prefer to start practicing without regard to the 45-minute time limit; others prefer to take a “timed test” first and practice within the time limit. No matter which approach you take when you practice the issue task, you should review the task directions, then:

- Carefully read the claim made in the topic and make sure you understand the issue involved; if it seems unclear, discuss it with a friend, relative, or instructor.
- Think about the issue in relation to your own ideas and experiences, to events you have read about or observed, and to people you have known; this is the knowledge base from which you will develop compelling reasons and examples in your argument that reinforce, negate, or qualify the claim in some way.
- Decide what position on the issue you want to take and defend—remember you are free to agree or disagree completely or to agree with some parts or some applications but not others.
- Decide what compelling evidence (reasons and examples) you can use to support your position.

Once you have decided on a position to defend, consider the perspective of others who might not agree with your position. Ask yourself:

- What reasons might someone use to refute or undermine my position?
- How should I acknowledge or defend against those views in my essay?

To plan your response, you might want to summarize your position and make brief notes about how you will support the position you are going to take. When you have done this, look over your notes and decide how you will organize your response. Then write a response developing your position on the issue. Even if you don’t write a full response, you should find it helpful to practice with a few of the issue topics and to sketch out your possible responses.¹

¹ The Graduate Record Examination Board and Educational Testing Service, *Practicing to Take the GRE General Test*, (Educational Testing Center, 2003) pp 94-96

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENT

- Format: The writing assignment **MUST** be typed, Word document, font size: 12 pts, double line spacing, 1" by 1" margin.
- Length: 5 pages, at least 1200 words not including cover page.
- The cover page should have the following information:
 - College name (Queensborough Community College)
 - Department: Engineering Technology
 - Course name: ET540/G24B Digital Computing Theory
 - Title of your writing assignment
 - Student's name
 - Submitted date
 - Instructor: Huixin Wu
- Organization: The cover goes on page 1, and the student's discussion on the technological issue goes on the other 5 pages.

GRADING

- Technical Requirement: 20 points
- 5 pages of discussion on the technological issue: 80 points
- Writing assignment 2 will also count as 10 extra points (as maximum) that will be added to your final exam.