

AWA(Analytical writing Assessment)

The Analytical Writing section tests your critical thinking and analytical writing skills. It assesses your ability to articulate and support complex ideas, construct and evaluate arguments, and sustain a focused and coherent discussion

- A 30-minute “Analyze an Issue” task (0 to 6)
- A 30-minute “Analyze an Argument” task (0 to 6)
- Reported score is average

Important Strategies

- It is important to budget your time.
- Save a few minutes at the end of each timed task to check for obvious errors.
- Stay focused and very close to the topic

Analyse An Argument Task:

- The Analyze an argument task assesses your ability to understand, evaluate arguments according to specific instructions.
- Each task consists of a brief passage in which author makes a case for some course of action.
- Your task is to discuss logical soundness of author’s case

Important Note:

What matters is not the form the response takes, but how insightfully you evaluate the argument and how articulately you communicate your evaluation to academic readers within the context of the task.

Example :

1. Town A’s roads are better than town B’s roads. Hence town A’s economy is better than town B’s economy.

Evidence : Roads

Claim: A better than B

2. ABC event held last year is popular that XYZ event this year. 150 people attended the ABC event last year and only 100 people attended XYZ event this year.

Evidence : Number of people

Claim: ABC better than XYZ

Analyse an Issue task

- The Analyze an Issue task assesses your ability to think critically about a topic of general interest according to specific instructions, and to clearly express your thoughts about it in writing.
- Each issue statement makes a claim that test takers can discuss from various perspectives and apply to many different situations or conditions.
- The issue statement is followed by specific instructions. Your task is to present a compelling case for your own position on the issue according to the specific instructions.

Preparing for the issue task

1. Carefully read the claim and the specific instructions, and make sure you understand them

2. Think about the claim and instructions in relation to your own ideas and experiences, events you have read about or observed, and 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.

3. Decide what position on the issue you want to take and defend.

In most cases:

1. **Mostly Agree or mostly disagree**

4. Decide what compelling evidence (reasons and examples) you can use to support your position.

Note: It is not your position that matters so much as the critical thinking skills you display in developing your position. Remember that this is a task in critical thinking and persuasive writing. The most successful responses will explore the complexity of the claim and instructions.