

Taking the ACCUPLACER® Test

Helpful Hints for Writing the Essay

Read the Instructions!

Read the entire essay question and answer all parts of it.



Plan Your Time

You have 50 minutes to complete your essay.

- Allow **5 to 10 minutes** to write your ideas down (brainstorm) on a piece of paper.
- Spend **30 to 35 minutes** writing (typing) your 5 paragraph essay.
- Save **10 minutes** to re-read your response carefully and correct any mistakes.

For more information about the **WritePlacer®** section of the ACCUPLACER® Test, please go to www.collegeboard.com

For more information on Accuplacer testing at NECC, please contact the Academic Placement and Testing Center at testing@necc.mass.edu or by visiting our website at www.necc.mass.edu/apply/assessment/

This brochure was specifically designed to provide helpful hints for first time test-takers and does not guarantee college level placement.



WritePlacer® Preparation

Tips for Writing an Essay for the ACCUPLACER® Test



Created by the Writing Center Staff
Northern Essex Community College

FOCUS – DEVELOP – ORGANIZE – PROOFREAD

Writing Your Essay



Your essay will be a response to a text that you read and your answer to the question that it asks.

- **Choose a side**

Answer the test question by choosing a side. Stick to your position and make sure everything you write relates to the topic and your view.

For example: If you are asked to write about if schools should require students to wear uniforms, focus only on your opinion about this topic.

- **Be clear about your main idea**

Write a sentence that includes your main idea (your answer to the question) and put it at the end of the first paragraph.

For example: “I believe school uniforms would be better for students, their families, and the school community.”

- **Develop your topic**

Write at least 3 examples or short stories to support your answer to the question (your main idea). Why did you choose that side?

- **For example:** If your main idea is “Students should have to wear uniforms in school.”, then you might write about how students could concentrate on school instead of fashion, parents would save money on clothes, and nobody would judge someone else’s wealth or taste.”

- **Organize your essay**

Write a 5 paragraph essay that includes:

- An introduction paragraph that includes a sentence about your main idea.
- 3 body paragraphs with your reasons and examples (stories)
- A conclusion paragraph restating your main idea.

Grammar Tips

- **Always write in complete sentences.**

Each sentence must have a noun and a verb. (He ran.)

For example: “Clothes with designer names.” is not a complete sentence.

“Students won’t be able to wear clothes with designer names.” is a complete sentence.

- **Vary your sentences.**

Try not to write only in simple sentences like: “Uniforms are good.”

Use compound sentences also, like: “I think uniforms are good for students’ education.”



NO“TEXT SPEAK”!

“Do u want 2 go 4 pizza l8r 2day?” is incorrect for college writing.

It should be: “Do you want to go for pizza later today?”