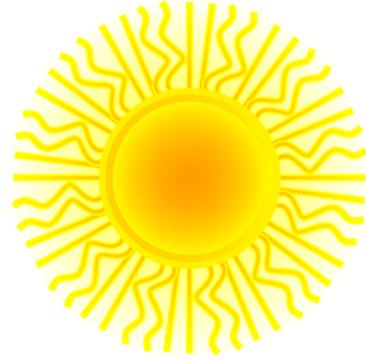


Two Summer Assignments for English 11 InCollege (Rosemount High School, Ms. Traeger)



Contact me with questions:

Heather.Traeger@district196.org Put “summer assignment question” in the subject line. I’ll check my email about once a week.

1. **Read at least TWO books that you actually want to read.** If you’re anything like me, as soon as someone assigns me a book to read, I immediately don’t want to read it, so all I’m going to require is that you find two books and you read them. Here are some ideas to help you with this:
 - a. **Go to GoodReads.com and set up a free account for yourself.** This is optional, but I think you’ll enjoy having an account. It asks you to rate books you’ve read before (*The Outsiders*? Books by Nicholas Sparks? *War and Peace*?) and it will generate suggestions for books you might also like. You can also connect with friends and share book suggestions. You can create a “Want to Read” shelf with titles you’re interested in. You can set reading goals. Enter contests. Write reviews. It’s a lot of fun. Give it a try!
 - b. **Go to the library or a book store** (perhaps even an independent bookstore? Check <http://www.midwestbooksellers.org>). Wander around. Find something that interests you. Talk to the people who work there and ask them for suggestions.
 - c. **Talk to your friends, parents, siblings and other adults you enjoy** about what they’re reading. Ask for suggestions.
 - d. **If you start a book and hate it, read something else instead.** “I didn’t find anything I liked” does not excuse you. Rather, it suggests you didn’t persist in the task. You won’t earn credit in college classes if you give up, especially on a task this wide-open!
 - e. **Remember:** becoming a better reader only happens when you actually read. For many, sitting and focusing on pages of text and imagining what’s happening on the page is a challenge (they may even think it’s... gasp... boring). You only increase your stamina at anything by doing the task repeatedly. You need this skill for college, so practice in the summer by using books YOU like. There are a lot of interesting books out there!

2. **Spend 40 minutes writing your response to the practice ACT Writing Exam topic on the next page. You will write your response by hand (no computers, just like the real test) and turn it in on the first full day of class in the fall.**



(If you want a little background about the ACT Writing Exam, go to “The ACT Writing Sample Essays” from ACT.org)

1. SET YOUR TIMER FOR 40 MN. This time includes reading the directions, planning and writing.
2. To mimic the actual ACT test, you must write this essay by hand! (yuck).

the topic below is from SuperTutorTV.com, written by Brooke Hanson, with some revisions by Ms. Traeger

Arts and Humanities in Education

As technology becomes more prevalent in today's society, some have proposed that our education system should adapt to the times. With the demand for people educated in technical fields increasing, some say that classes in topics such as theater, music, or photography should be scrapped, and monies spent instead on courses such as computer science. Still others define the arts more broadly and believe that too many students graduate from college majoring in humanities courses, such as philosophy or world history, with few related, highly paid career options. They propose that college students focus more on technical fields such as construction trades and engineering. Does a well-rounded education, including arts and humanities, provide essential skills much needed in today's world? Should society reduce its emphasis on arts and humanities education?

Read and carefully consider these perspectives. Each suggests a particular way of thinking about education for the future.

Perspective 1

Our society needs more qualified workers in math and science fields. As our world becomes more technologically advanced, emphasizing math and science in education will help our society to prosper and innovate.

Perspective 2

A well-rounded education, including both arts/humanities and science/technical training, provides immense advantages. When a society provides diverse learning opportunities to students, its citizens can more readily and thoughtfully adapt to change.

Perspective 3

The arts are the soul of our humanity, and our society needs to teach the arts today more than ever. The arts and humanities bring a richness to our world that would diminish should our education system divert resources from them.

Essay Task

Write a unified, coherent essay about arts and humanities education in society. In your essay, be sure to:

- Clearly state your own perspective on the issue and analyze the relationship between your perspective and at least one other perspective
- Develop and support your ideas with reasoning and examples
- Organize your ideas clearly and logically
- Communicate your ideas effectively in standard written English

Your perspective may be in full agreement with any of those given, in partial agreement, or completely different.

Ms. Traeger recommends a quick outline before you start drafting. Forty minutes time limit.

How To Write The New ACT Essay

Date: July 6, 2015 Author: Robert Kohen

<http://www.koheneducationalservices.com/how-to-write-the-new-act-essay/>

The ACT essay is changing. The new essay looks very different from the former essay. It lasts 40 minutes (up from 30) and features a prompt and three “perspectives” on it. Your task is to write an argument that responds to the prompt while addressing and evaluating the three perspectives.

Here’s how you can ace the new essay:

- 1) **After evaluating the prompt and all three perspectives, come up with your own argument.** This argument should have some bearing on the three perspectives, but it should represent your own take on the prompt. The argument will usually agree in some way with one or two of the perspectives and disagree with the others.
- 2) **Leave 3-5 minutes at the beginning to plan your essay and at the end to review it.**
- 3) **The ideal structure is an introductory paragraph that clearly and succinctly states your central argument and how your examples will support it, followed by two to three paragraphs that argue (using detailed examples) for your thesis and against counterarguments, followed by a concluding paragraph that restates your thesis and how your examples successfully supported it.** (2/3 explanation of your perspective; 1/3 refuting other perspectives)
- 4) **You *must* refute possible counterarguments.** The ACT looks for this on every essay. This is a sophisticated technique that helps strengthen your argument.
- 5) **Make your examples very detailed by including dates and proper names,** but always make sure the examples are used to support your argument. It’s OK to fudge some of the details – the test makers are not allowed to grade you on the truth of your claims. It’s probably not a good idea, however, to declare that Pearl Harbor occurred in the 1700s.
- 6) **Make sure each example addresses a different perspective or argument** – don’t simply repeat the exact same point twice through two separate examples.
- 7) **Use sophisticated vocabulary when appropriate.** A well-used, sophisticated vocabulary word can add a lot of bang to your essay. Make sure you are using all words correctly, however!
- 8) **Use a varied sentence structure.** Don’t start every sentence with the same word, and make sure to vary grammatical structures between sentences. One trick to help is to throw in an occasional rhetorical question. “How would the early Monicaros have felt if they too lacked freedom?”
- 9) **Make sure each new paragraph begins with a strong and clear transition.**
- 10) **Use active sentences rather than passive sentences.** “He ate the cereal” is better than “the cereal was eaten.”
- 11) **Avoid using “I.”** While you’re technically allowed to use “I”, your essay will sound more formal and authoritative without it.
- 12) **Consider using a hypothetical for your final sentence:** IF the position you take was done (everything would be great) or if it was not done (everything would be disastrous).