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GRE GENERAL TEST PRACTICE · ANALYTICAL WRITING

GRE Analytical Writing

Practice Set 03 · The Analyze an Issue Essay · Model Essay & Answer Key

IX

PREMIUM EDITION

20	2	8
questions	model answers	practice prompts

2026 EDITION · GRE SERIES

●○○ FOUNDATION

Contents

Contents

Part I · Foundations

1. Analytical Writing at a glance 4
2. The 30-minute plan 5
3. Reading the instructions 6

Part II · Practice

4. Prompt A: Persistence or talent? (Q1–5) 7
5. Prompt B: What universities are for (Q6–10) 11
6. Language and style (Q11–15) 14
7. Test strategy (Q16–20) 16

Part III · Review

8. Score guide 18
9. Answer key with explanations 19
10. Phrase bank & 8 practice prompts 20

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Chapter One

Analytical Writing at a glance

The Analytical Writing measure assesses critical thinking and analytical writing: whether you can state and support a complex idea, sustain a focused and coherent discussion, and control the elements of standard written English. It does not test specific content knowledge.

Feature	Current GRE General Test
Task	One **Analyze an Issue** task
Time	30 minutes
Position	Always the first section of the test
Score	**0–6** in half-point steps

Each Issue topic makes a claim that can be discussed from different perspectives, followed by specific instructions. Your job is to build a compelling case for your own position, following those instructions.

> **What raters look for (in brief):** a clear, insightful position; logical reasons and relevant, well-developed examples; organized, connected paragraphs; and precise, varied, correct language.

Source: ETS, GRE General Test structure and Analytical Writing pages (ets.org/gre), November 2026. ETS publishes the full Issue topic pool and scoring guide on its website.

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Chapter Three

Reading the instructions

Every Issue topic comes with instructions that tell you what your essay must do. The wording varies, but most instructions ask for one of these moves.

If the instructions ask you to…	Your essay should…
discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree	take a clear position and show where the statement holds and where it doesn't
address the most compelling reasons against your position	include a strong counterargument paragraph and answer it
consider the consequences of a policy	explain what would likely happen if the policy were adopted
discuss which of two views is closer to your own	evaluate both views fairly before choosing
discuss a claim and the reason given for it	evaluate both the claim and whether the reason really supports it

Tip. Underline the verbs in the instructions (discuss, address, consider, explain). Then make sure each one appears in your outline.

●●○ CORE

Chapter Four · Analyze an Issue

Prompt A: Persistence or talent?

PROMPT A

Success in most fields depends more on persistence than on natural talent.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim. In developing and supporting your position, be sure to address specific circumstances in which the claim might or might not hold true, and explain how these considerations shape your position.

PLANNING **1. For Prompt A, which thesis best fits the task?**

A Talent is a word with many meanings.

B Some people are talented.

C This essay will talk about success.

D Persistence matters more than talent in most fields, but in a few, such as elite athletics, natural ability sets limits that effort alone cannot overcome.

E Persistence is a good quality.

PLANNING **2. Prompt A asks you to address "specific circumstances in which the claim might or might not hold true." Which plan follows this?**

A Describe one famous person's life in detail

B Argue only that talent is unimportant

C Identify fields where persistence clearly matters most and fields where talent sets real limits, and explain the difference

D Define "success" using a dictionary

E List ten successful people

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SET 03 COMPLETE

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