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GRE GENERAL TEST PRACTICE · ANALYTICAL WRITING

GRE Analytical Writing

Practice Set 05 · The Analyze an Issue Essay · Model Essay & Answer Key

XV

PREMIUM EDITION

20	2	8
questions	model answers	practice prompts

2026 EDITION · GRE SERIES

FOUNDATION

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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: The value of ignoring information

PROMPT A

In an age of information overload, the ability to ignore information is more valuable than the ability to acquire it.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim. In developing and supporting your position, address the most compelling reasons or examples that could be used to challenge your position.

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

A Information is everywhere.

B Ignoring things is easy.

C The ability to ignore information has become more valuable than ever, but only because it depends on judgment, which is itself built by acquiring knowledge.

D This essay is about information.

E Some information is useful.

PLANNING **2. Prompt A asks you to address the most compelling challenge to your position. Which challenge to the claim is most compelling?**

A Some people dislike reading.

B The internet is large.

C Phones are distracting.

D Libraries have many books.

E Without first acquiring knowledge, people cannot tell which information is safe to ignore.

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SET 05 COMPLETE

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