

THE ESSAY

IN SOCIAL STUDIES
AND CURRENT ISSUES
& EVENTS



WHY HAVE AN ESSAY?

- It acts as the determinate factor in deciding the best of the best.
- Allows contestants to demonstrate their extensive knowledge.
- Strikes a balance between objective and subjective.
- Writing.



HOW TO HIRE THE BEST

Study: 73% of Employers Want Candidates With This Skill

Data shows that strong writing skills make candidates more favorable.



BY KALEIGH MOORE Contributor, Inc.com @kaleighf



2 COMMENTS



Be prepared to showcase your writing skills in an interview. CREDIT: Getty Images

When torn between potential new hires, it might be wise to choose the candidate with strong writing skills.

We know that businesses are spending billions each year on remedial

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NEXT ARTICLE

TODAY'S MUST READS

Why Right Now Is the Best Time to Start a Business, According to a Serial Entrepreneur

JOB

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Why Johnny can't write, and why employers are mad

Kelley Holland | @KKelleyHolland
 Monday, 11 Nov 2013 | 6:00 AM ET



115 SHARES

325 COMMENTS [Join the Discussion](#)



Can you tell a pronoun from a participle; use commas correctly in long sentences; describe the difference between its and it's?

If not, you have plenty of company in the world of job seekers. Despite stubbornly high **unemployment**, many employers complain that they



**THE WRONG PART
 CHANGES EVERYTHING.
 THAT'S WHY PENSKE
 LOGISTICS HAS
 STATE-OF-THE-ART
 DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS.**

“Recruiters and companies are saying, 'Send us a writing sample, and if you don't meet our standards for communication, we are not hiring you.' College students often don't realize how important on-the-job writing is.”

Cynthia Linville, Sacramento State University

THE PROCESS

Read the essay prompt.

Freak out.

Take the test.

Read the essay prompt.

Write an outline.

Read the prompt.

Write a draft.

Read the prompt.

Edit and rewrite.

TIP:

Neatness counts. If the judges can't read your essay, they will, naturally, have a hard time rewarding it.

NEATNESS COUNTS

- Double space.
- Keep editing simple. Use single lines to cross out material.
- Proof for grammar, spelling and punctuation errors in the last couple minutes.
- Put your number at the top of every page. Do NOT put your name or school on any material.

A GOOD ESSAY

- Answers the questions stated or implied in the prompt.
- Begins with a well-formed thesis. Opens with a clear, precise statement that assimilates information.
- Continues in a logical order.
- Flows smoothly.
- Contains few grammar, spelling and punctuation errors.

TIP:

The essay may analyze and interpret, but should not attempt to editorialize. The very nature of expository writing requires the writer to enhance the reader's understanding of a subject by analyzing its parts and interpreting its meaning.

TIP:

Work on transitional or directional words. The essay should have a clear, organized, logical order, and information should flow from one idea to the next.

TIP:

Make sure to have a THESIS
and ANSWER THE QUESTION
(no matter how much you wish it was
about something else).

TIP:

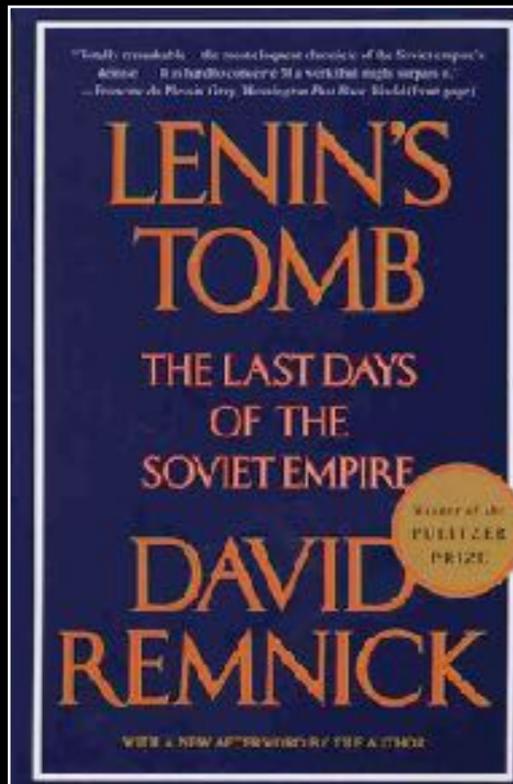
Examine the question in a variety of contexts: social, political, scientific, cultural and economic, for example.

ABOUT THE CI&E CONTEST



- 40 objective questions
- Essay (10 points)
- 60 minutes
- Top score individual (objective plus essay)
- Top score team (objective only; top three individuals constitute team score)

ABOUT THE SOCIAL STUDIES CONTEST



- 45 objective questions
= 80 total points
- Essay (20 points)
- 90 minutes
- Top score individual (objective plus essay)
- Top score team (objective only; top three individuals constitute team score)

ABOUT INDIVIDUAL SCORING



- Objective + essay score.
- Only top eight objective scorers advance to essay round.

ABOUT INDIVIDUAL SCORING OBJECTIVE QUESTIONS

- Britney — 32
- Lindsay — 30
- Tara — 28
- Juan — 27
- Jayden — 26
- Sophia — 26
- Nicole — 25
- Hilary — 24

- Noah — 23
- Jacob — 22
- Mary-Kate — 21

All other contestants
answered fewer than 21
correctly.

Top eight advance to the essay round.

ABOUT INDIVIDUAL SCORING

ADD THE ESSAY QUESTIONS

NAME	OBJECTIVE	ESSAY	TOTAL
BRITNEY	32	5	37
LINDSEY	30	7	37
TARA	28	10	38
JUAN	27	10	37
JAYDEN	26	8	34
SOPHIA	26	5	31
NICOLE	25	3	28
HILARY	24	9	33

THE NUMBERS: STATE 2017

Objective score average | 31.3

(2016: 27.6) (2015: 32.3)

High | 40 (n=1)

39 (n=1)

38 (n=1)

Low | 13

Essay score average | 5.2

(2016: 4.7) (2015: 5.6)

High | 10 (n=1)

Low | 1

LET'S LOOK AT TOM

Tom scored a 38 on the objective portion of the exam. THE highest score in his classification. However, he scored a 3 on his essay for a combined total score of 41. He placed second. Had he scored a 6 on his essay, he would have placed first.

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The essay matters.

LET'S LOOK AT SAJA

Saja scored a 25 on the multiple choice portion of the exam, about average. However, she scored an 8 on her essay, moving her up to second place with a combined score of 33.

The person right behind her, scored a 29 on the multiple choice portion and a 2 on the essay. Had she scored an 8, she would have placed first, beating the person who did place first by two points.

The essay matters.

THE ESSAY

The essay matters.
Contestants who fail to submit
an essay shall be disqualified

SOCIAL STUDIES GRADING THE ESSAY

Contestants who do not write an essay will be disqualified. Any essay that does not demonstrate a sincere effort to discuss the assigned topic will be disqualified.

The rankings of essays will be based primarily on how well the topic has been addressed.

for the Social Studies Essay

*Judges may award all or no points. This is a working document for as r
Final points are a compromise among judges, NOT A RUNNING POIN
point averaging. Return this form to the student with the objective port*

■ **Points AWARDED:**

A 16-20 ESSAY opens with a declarative statement that extends the prompt without re-stating it. The thesis is supported by substantial, relevant information that analyzes the prompt from a range of perspectives — for example, political, social, cultural and economic. It does not provide a mere shopping list of facts. It interprets the facts without editorializing. The essay is well written and organized with few spelling, grammar or punctuation errors. The essay is clear, precise and succinct.

An 11-15 ESSAY offers a clear thesis with limited development. It either deals with

Judge 1

Judge 2

Jud

Comments:

CURRENT ISSUES & EVENTS

GRADING THE ESSAY

In a three-person judging panel, must every judge grade each essay? Yes. If more than one person judges essays, make certain that judges reach agreement on which essay is the best. Do not rely solely on point totals. One judge may be more stringent than another. It is possible that a weaker essay, graded by a more lenient judge, can be awarded more points than a stronger essay, graded by a more strict judge.



An 8-10 ESSAY opens with a declarative statement that extends the prompt without re-stating it. The thesis is supported by substantial, relevant information that analyzes the prompt from a range of perspectives — for example, political, social, cultural and economic. It does not provide a mere shopping list of facts. It interprets the facts without editorializing. The essay is well written and organized with few spelling, grammar or punctuation errors. The essay is clear, precise and succinct.

Comments:

A 5-7 ESSAY offers a clear thesis with limited development. It either deals with one aspect in depth or with all aspects more superficially while providing limited analysis. Generally good writing and organization skills displayed. May contain errors of fact that do not seriously detract from the quality of the essay

CIE

CURRENT
ISSUES
and EVENTS

LET'S TRY IT

THE PROMPT

This year, meeting as part of the Jan. 10 - May 29 biennial legislature, the Texas House is as Republican-dominated as the Texas Senate – both roughly two-thirds GOP majority – and Texas remains a conservative stronghold. In their 140 days, legislators will discuss legislation ranging from the trivial to the monumental. Most of the legislation will go unnoticed and will never make it out of committee. Some legislation, however, will gain national attention setting precedent for other states. Discuss some of the actions and pieces of legislation that have drawn national attention and where they have gotten their support.

GRADE THE ESSAY

4A - 18

For the current Texas Senate, things have been turbulent. First and foremost, one of the legislature's primary focuses has been the budget. While the Texan economy remains strong with a healthy reserve, recent economic disruptions (such as fluctuations in the oil market) have brought that into question. Several senators have brought bills forward to either extend or delve into the reserve, but none have yet to progress past the vote.

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Meanwhile, a civil battle has been brewing as Senate Republicans continue to encroach with antiabortion legislation, bills requiring certain doctoral certifications, building requirements like double gurney halls, or hospital admitting rights, making operating an abortion clinic nigh impossible in the

While many cities across the US and the State of California have proposed or passed laws to become "Sanctuary Cities" for residential immigrants and refugees, it is not the same for Texas.

Currently a debate has been brought to the floor, as several cities and municipalities like Dallas have become friendlier to marijuana, as to whether the drug should be punished less or perhaps even

And most notably, despite the incredible backlash that North Carolina has received for HB 2, Texan legislators, spearhead by President of the Texas Senate Dan Patrick, are supporting a similar bill that would force citizens to use public bathrooms in line with their sex at birth rather than their gender identity. This comes as a great concern to Texas businesses after North Carolina lost substantial income before backpedaling on their bill.

Rubric

for the CI&E Essay

Judges may award all or no points. This is a working document for as many as three judges. Final points are a compromise among judges, NOT A RUNNING POINT TOTAL or pure point averaging. Return this form to the student with the objective portion of the contest.

■ Points AWARDED:

Judge 1

Judge 2

Judge 3

Consensus

An 8-10 ESSAY opens with a declarative statement that extends the prompt without re-stating it. The thesis is supported by substantial, relevant information that analyzes the prompt from a range of perspectives — for example, political, social, cultural and economic. It does not provide a mere shopping list of facts. It interprets the facts without editorializing. The essay is well written and organized with few spelling, grammar or punctuation errors. The essay is clear, precise and succinct.

A 5-7 ESSAY offers a clear thesis with limited development. It either deals with one aspect in depth or with all aspects more superficially while providing limited analysis. Generally good writing and organization skills displayed. May contain errors of fact that do not seriously detract from the quality of the essay.

A 2-4 ESSAY lacks a thesis or presents a confused or undeveloped thesis. It deals with the prompt in a superficial way and offers no analysis. Instead, it tends to editorialize. May contain major fact errors, display poor writing skills and rely on bloated, pretentious language.

A 0-1 ESSAY displays little or no understanding of the prompt. The response is poorly written and organized and may contain significant fact, grammar, punctuation and/or spelling errors that detract from the clarity of the response.

Comments:

OVERALL ESSAY SCORE _____

GRADE THE ESSAY

4A - 18

For the current Texas Senate, things have been turbulent. First and foremost, one of the legislature's primary focuses has been the budget. While the Texan economy remains strong with a healthy reserve, recent economic disruptions (such as fluctuations in the oil market) have brought that into question. Several senators have brought bills forward to either extend or delve into the reserve, but none have yet to progress past the vote.

Meanwhile, a civil battle has been brewing as Senate Republicans continue to encroach with antiabortion legislation, bills requiring certain doctoral certifications, building requirements like double gurney halls, or hospital admitting rights, making operating an abortion clinic nigh impossible in the state leaving less than fifteen in the state. Other bills focus on limiting the period for abortions such as the proposed 'heartbeat bill' that would make abortions after the first detected fetal heartbeat illegal. Democrats have vigorously opposed these bills, some even proposing satirical bills such as the Man's Right to Know Act to call out the absurdity of some propositions.

While many cities across the US and the State of California have proposed or passed laws to become "Sanctuary Cities" for residential immigrants and refugees in opposition to president Trump's many actions on immigration, Texan Republicans have pushed forth legislation that would make it illegal for Texan cities to do the same.

Currently a debate has been brought to the floor, as several cities and municipalities like Dallas have become friendlier to marijuana, as to whether the drug should be punished less or perhaps even legalized. These debates have not however resulted in any proposals.

And most notably, despite the incredible backlash that North Carolina has received for HB 2, Texan legislators, spearheaded by President of the Texas Senate Dan Patrick, are supporting a similar bill that would force citizens to use public bathrooms in line with their sex at birth rather than their gender identity. This comes as a great concern to Texas businesses after North Carolina lost substantial income before backpedaling on their bill.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

Keep it simple.

Don't rant.

Don't be silly.

Open with a clear statement.

Organize your facts.

Move forward logically.

Use a conclusion to bring ideas full circle.

THE ESSAY

The essay matters.

CONTACT US



SOCIAL STUDIES

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CURRENT ISSUES

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