

TSIA 2.0 ELAR & WRITEPLACER

ENGLISH,
LANGUAGE ARTS,
AND READING
(ELAR)



Reading-focused questions measure your skills in comprehension and analysis of literary, informational, and argumentative texts.



Writing-focused questions measure your skills in revision and edition of sentences, paragraphs, and early drafts of essays.

WHAT'S ON THE ELAR TESTS?

READING- FOCUSED QUESTIONS

Analysis of literary texts

- Explicit information, inferences, author's craft, vocabulary

Analysis and synthesis of informational texts

- Main idea, supporting details, inferences in a single passage, author's craft, vocabulary, synthesize two passages



WRITING- FOCUSED QUESTIONS

Essay Revision and Editing

- Development, organization, word choice, and Standard English conventions

Sentence Revision, Editing, and Completion

- Conventions of grammar, usage, and punctuation



STRATEGIES FOR TEXT & STRUCTURE ANALYSIS



READ THE PASSAGE
QUICKLY.



READ EACH
QUESTION CLOSELY
(ONE-BY-ONE).



AFTER YOU READ THE
QUESTION,
RE-READ THAT PART
OF THE PASSAGE
CLOSELY.



REFER BETWEEN THE
PASSAGE AND THE
QUESTION **AS MANY
TIMES AS
NECESSARY.**



Before the test:
Complete revision practice.
Brazosport.edu/WritingCenter >
TSI Resources



During the test:
Read the question sentence.



Read each answer as a part of the question sentence.



Choose your answer based on your knowledge of which conjugation or phrase fits the BEST.



Read out loud (quietly to yourself).

STRATEGIES FOR CONTENT REVISION & EDITING

SAMPLE CONTENT AND REVISION QUESTIONS

20. Indiana is the smallest state in the Midwest although they have one of the largest populations of any state in that region.
- A. although they have
 - B. although with
 - C. but has
 - D. but they have
22. Charleston, South Carolina, is a popular city for tourists, with their historical sites and beautiful weather.
- A. with their historical sites and beautiful weather
 - B. with its historical sites and beautiful weather
 - C. it has historical sites and beautiful weather
 - D. because of their historical sites and beautiful weather

SAMPLE CONTENT
AND REVISION
QUESTIONS

Answers!

20. Indiana is the smallest state in the Midwest although they have one of the largest populations of any state in that region.

- A. although they have
- B. although with
- C. but has
- D. but they have

C

22. Charleston, South Carolina, is a popular city for tourists, with their historical sites and beautiful weather.

- A. with their historical sites and beautiful weather
- B. with its historical sites and beautiful weather
- C. it has historical sites and beautiful weather
- D. because of their historical sites and beautiful weather

B

WRITEPLACER

TSIA2 ESSAY CRITERIA

Purpose and Focus

- Argument or claim directly and clearly addresses the question AND reading in the prompt.
- All examples develop one specific claim

Organization and Structure

- Each idea builds on the one before and anticipates the one that follows
- Meaningful transitions—more than just transition words
- Multiple paragraphs, each discussing how an example develops the paper's claim

Development and Support

- Each example supports the paper's claim
- Counter arguments might be used to develop claim
- Logical and sensible progression from one idea to another

Sentence Variety and Style

- Variety of length and style
- Demonstrate control of word choice, voice, and structure
- Each sentence builds on the one before and sets up the one that follows.
- Choice of words and structure is intentional

Mechanical Conventions

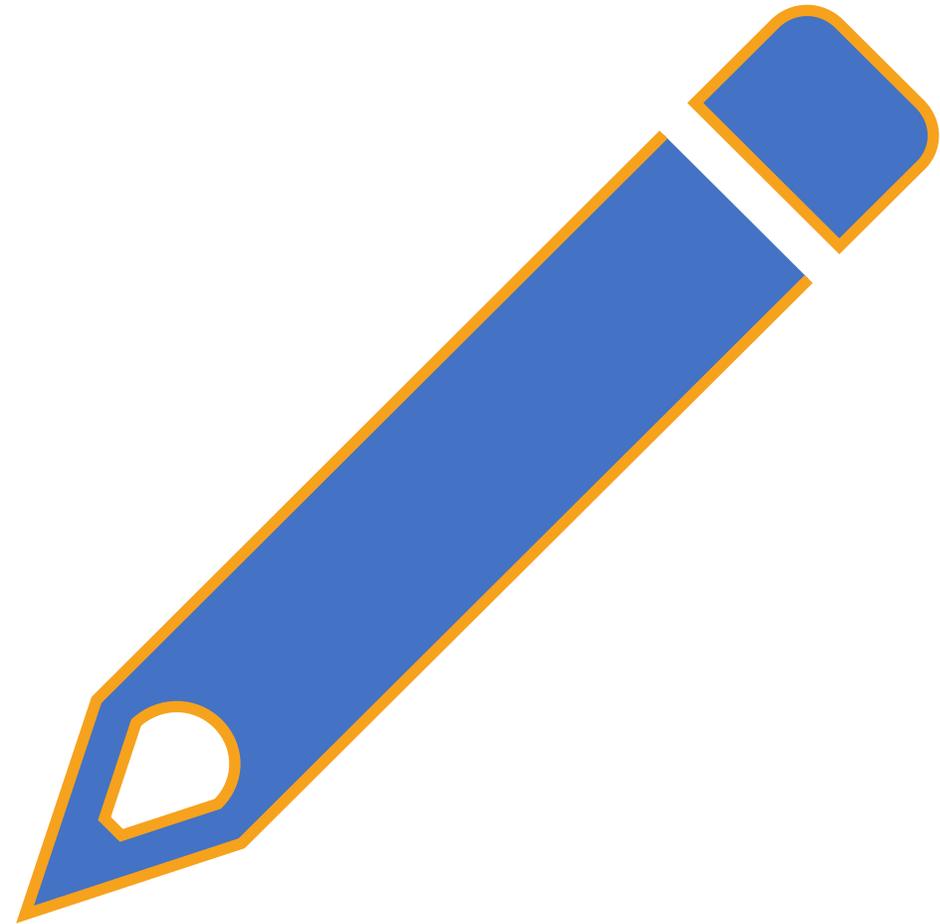
- Grammatical clarity
- Standard English
- Spelling
- Punctuation
- Subject Verb Agreement
- Sentence Boundaries

Critical Thinking

- Communicate a point of view that is clear and connected to the prompt
- Demonstrate reasons examples and ideas are connected to paper's claim
- Illustrates college-level complexity
- Clear and reasoned analysis of the issue presented in the prompt

Length: 300-600 words

TSIA2 ESSAY
STRUCTURE



INTRODUCTION PARAGRAPH 1 (3-4 SENTENCES)



Begin your essay with one of the following: a generalization about the topic, a quotation, a short anecdote to set-up the correctness of your position, a historical framework, or a piece of news illustrating the importance of the issue.



Admit the complexity of the issue.

2

You have two goals in the beginning part of the essay: to introduce the topic, and to express your opinion on it.

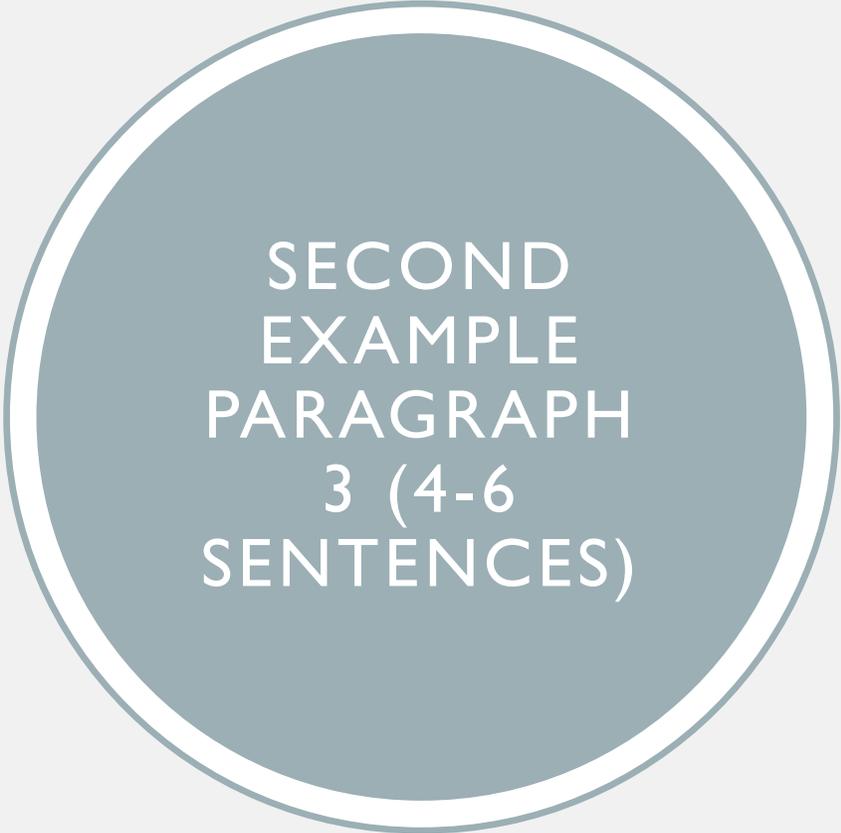


Be sure to place your thesis as the final sentence in your introduction. The thesis is your answer to the Assignment question.



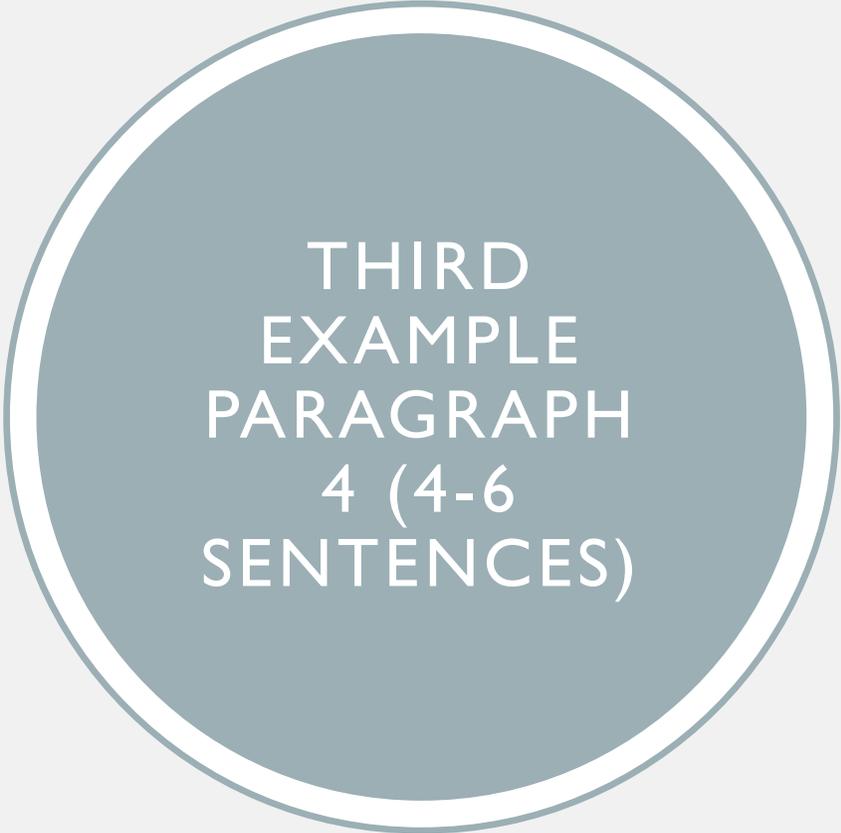
FIRST
EXAMPLE
PARAGRAPH
2 (4-6
SENTENCES)

- Start with your most-powerful or relevant example.
- Be specific. Your example can be from history, science, politics, business, entertainment, pop culture, current events, personal experience, etc. Anything can be an example, but choose only ONE for each paragraph.
- Pick an example you are knowledgeable about and that you believe strongly supports your thesis.
- You have three tasks in your body paragraphs:
 1. Introduce your example.
 2. Describe it.
 3. Explain how it fully supports your thesis.
- You should be spending most of your body paragraph accomplishing the third step: explaining how your example fully supports your thesis. Aim to **convince the reader through very concrete details** how your position on the issue is correct.
- DO NOT end your paragraph by referencing the next point.



SECOND
EXAMPLE
PARAGRAPH
3 (4-6
SENTENCES)

- Optional: Purposefully use a transition word/phrase to introduce the second example.
- Describe your example.
- Explain again how it fully supports your thesis.
- You may refer to your first example if you need to, but focus on your new example.
- **DO NOT** mention your third example until you get to the third paragraph.



THIRD
EXAMPLE
PARAGRAPH
4 (4-6
SENTENCES)

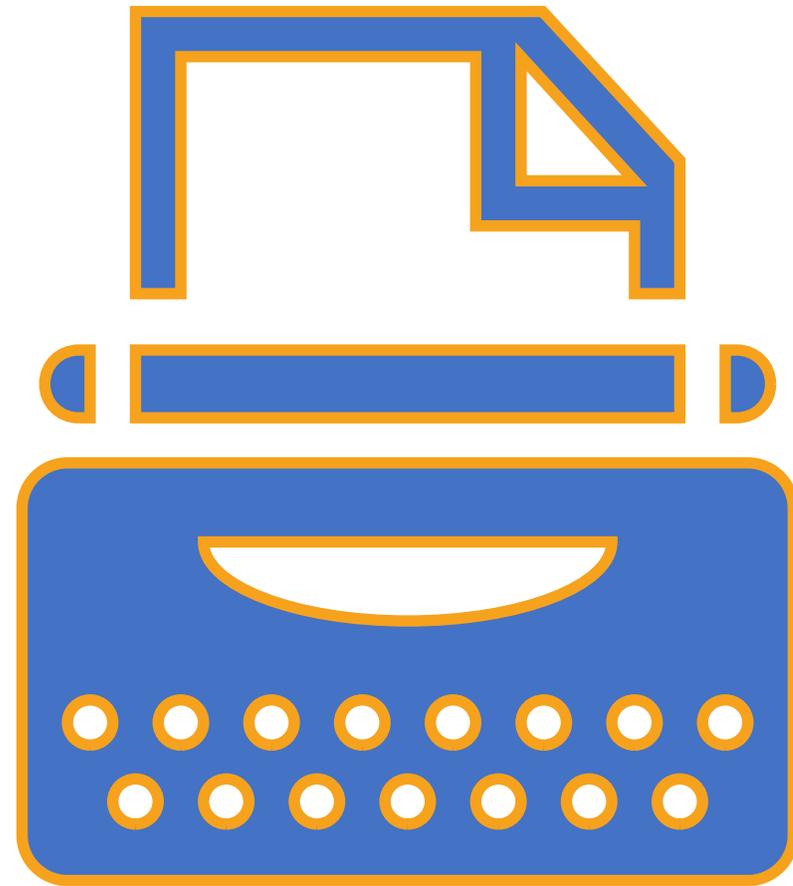
- Optional: Purposefully use a transition word/phrase to introduce the second example.
- Describe your example.
- Explain how it fully supports your thesis.
- Make sure you are clear how the example relates to the topic.



CONCLUSION
PARAGRAPH 5 (2-3 SENTENCES)

- So what?
- Introduce opposing ideas.
- Explain and refute these ideas in general terms then reinforce the correctness of your idea. Note that transition words are highlighted in yellow in the templates below.
- To refute one opposing view:
Some have argued that _____, believing that _____. **However**, this viewpoint on the issue is negated by _____. **Rather**, _____. **Therefore**, in the long run, _____.
- To refute two opposing views:
Although _____ is correct, some have argued that _____, believing that _____. **However**, this viewpoint on the issue is negated by _____. **Rather**, _____. **Therefore**, in the long run, _____.

ON-DEMAND
WRITING
TIPS





FINDING THE QUESTION IN THE PROMPT

- Read the passage.
- Read the question.
- Interpret the passage.
- Determine how the passage and the question connect.
 - What does this passage claim?
 - How can you use this passage to answer the question?

Your interpretation of the passage should help you make your claim (in your introduction) and/or be your first example in the paper.

PRACTICE PROMPT READING

Passage

“An actor, when his cue came, was unable to move onto the stage. He said, ‘I can’t get in; the chair is in the way.’ The producer said, ‘Use the difficulty. If it’s drama, pick the chair up, and smash it. If it’s comedy, fall over it.’ From this experience the actor concluded that in any negative situation in life, there is something positive you can do with it.”

Adapted from Lawrence Eisenberg, “Caine Scrutiny”

Assignment

Can any obstacle or disadvantage be turned into something good?

TIMED OUTLINING

Introduction

- Claim—Answer to the prompt question
- Interpretation of prompt passage

Core

- Examples that develop your claim
- Each example = a new paragraph

Conclusion

- **So what** can readers do, now that they see things from your point of view?
- Introduce, explain, and refute opposing ideas (counter arguments)



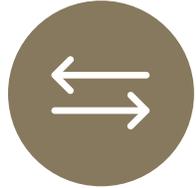
Fast reading for content and clarity.



Read your essay once to make sure it makes sense.



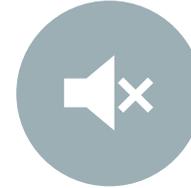
Check your examples.



Make any changes you need to make to ensure your readers will understand your ideas.



Use short sentences, and keep things simple.



Don't try to sound smart; try to be clear.

REVISING ON DEMAND

EDITING ON DEMAND

Get as much distance from your essay as possible.

- Take a breath. Stretch in your seat.

Read out loud.

- Quietly & to yourself.

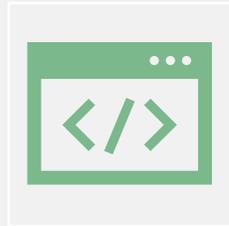
Read backwards.

- Start with your last sentence. Then, read your paper backwards, sentence by sentence.
- As you read, look carefully at your spelling, sentence boundaries, capitalization, and grammar.

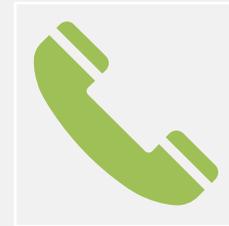
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