

— Directions for the English Placement Writing Test—

You are to write a 400-600 word essay on **one** of the topics listed on the sheet the testing staff will give you. To give you an example of length, a 400-word composition is about four pages in a green book or a page and a half double-spaced on the computer. Regardless of method, you may use the following resources the testing staff will provide: a dictionary, spell-check, “Rules of Thumb” grammar handbook, and grammar-check. You may use scratch paper to write notes or create an outline. Most students take **at least an hour** to plan, write, and proofread (reread and correct) their essays, but you may take as long as you need. The essay is NOT timed so take your time and do your very best.

You must take this test seriously. It will be used to place you into the proper English course (English 094, 097, 098, or 101). Because of ECC’s Minimum Competencies Policy, any placement lower than English 101 will require that you take one or more remedial courses before taking any other writing-intensive courses. Clearly, then, you should do the best you can.

Remember that an effective essay contains the following:

- A thesis or main idea
- Several interesting, meaningful paragraphs relevant to the topic
- Specific details and examples that support the main idea
- Good organization, including an introduction, several body paragraphs, and a conclusion
- Correct grammar, spelling, and sentence structure

Remember to proofread (re-read and correct) the essay before submitting it.

Directions if you are using the computer:

Double-space your essay using a size 12 font. You may use the spell-check and grammar-check if you wish. You may print a hard copy of your essay to proofread. Be sure to make any corrections and print a final draft. You must turn in all essay copies and scratch paper to the testing staff.

Directions if you are using a green book:

Please write legibly **in ink**. Do not use a pencil. Write only on the front side of the pages. Do NOT write on the back of the pages. Remember to indent for paragraphs clearly. You must turn in all notes, drafts, and scratch paper with your final copy to the testing staff.