

# **Timed Writing Practice**

The following are examples of prompts you might be presented with in a timed writing session such as a final exam essay. For each prompt, use specific reasons and examples to support your position.

1. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? There is nothing that young people can teach older people.
2. You have the opportunity to visit a foreign country for two weeks. Which country would you like to visit?
3. It is sometimes said that borrowing money from a friend can harm or damage the friendship. Do you agree? Why or why not?
4. Holidays honor people or events. If you could create a new holiday, what person or event would it honor and how would you want people to celebrate it?
5. When people need to complain about a product or poor service, some prefer to complain in writing and others prefer to complain in person. Which way do you prefer?
6. Plants can provide food, shelter, clothing, or medicine. What is one kind of plant that is important to you or the people in your country?
7. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? All students should be required to study art and music in secondary school.
8. Schools should ask students to evaluate their teachers. Do you agree or disagree? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer. If you were asked to send one thing representing your country to an international exhibition, what would you choose? Why?
9. Describe a custom from your country that you would like people from other countries to adopt. Explain your choice.
10. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Dancing plays an important role in a culture..
11. Some people prefer to live in places that have the same weather or climate all year long. Others like to live in areas where the weather changes several times a year. Which do you prefer?
12. If you could travel back in time to meet a famous person from history, what person would you like to meet?
13. If you could study a subject that you have never had the opportunity to study, what would you choose? Explain your choice.
14. A foreign visitor has only one day to spend in your country. Where should this visitor go on that day? Why?

15. What are the important qualities of a good son or daughter? Have these qualities changed or remained the same over time in your culture?
16. It has been said, "Not everything that is learned is contained in books." Compare and contrast knowledge gained from experience with knowledge gained from books. In your opinion, which source is more important? Why?
17. A person you know is planning to move to your town or city. What do you think this person would like and dislike about living in your town or city? Why?
18. Some people prefer to live in a small town. Others prefer to live in a big city. Which place would you prefer to live in?
19. Many people visit museums when they travel to new places. Why do you think people visit museums?
20. Some people prefer to eat at food stands or restaurants. Other people prefer to prepare and eat food at home. Which do you prefer?
21. Some people believe that university students should be required to attend classes. Others believe that going to classes should be optional for students. Which point of view do you agree with?
22. Some people spend their entire lives in one place. Others move a number of times throughout their lives, looking for a better job, house, community, or even climate. Which do you prefer: staying in one place or moving in search of another place?
23. What change would make your hometown more appealing to people your age?
24. Learning about the past has no value for those of us living in the present. Do you agree or disagree?
25. Some people are always in a hurry to go places and get things done. Other people prefer to take their time and live life at a slower pace. Which do you prefer?
26. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Games are as important for adults as they are for children.

"Writing Topics." ETS:TOEFL. 2008: 27-32. 4 November 2008. <<http://www.ets.org/Media/Tests/TOEFL/pdf/989563wt.pdf>>.