GED ESSAYS

Retyped: 9/22/06
Guide for Writing the GED Essay

1. **Read the topic** very carefully, thinking it over and analyzing what you are going to write about.

2. **Brainstorm**, making notes of key ideas or first impressions, and any word, phrases, or facts that you think would fit in with the topic. It is a good idea to choose at least 2 or 3 definite ideas or reasons to support your point of view.

3. **Go over your notes**, organizing as necessary. Delete items that are off the topic, or that might be difficult to incorporate. Add ideas or notes to the 2 or 3 reasons you have chosen to support your point of view so that you can fully develop them.

4. Begin writing your **first paragraph**. Restate the topic and give your opinion or comment in two or three sentences. For example, sentence 1 would restate the topic. Sentence 2 would state your point of view, and sentence 3 might state why you feel that way in general terms without giving specific details. Some sentence starters to help you might be: I agree that; Although __________, I feel that …; It is my opinion that…

5. The **second paragraph** should be the development of the main reason for your point of view. Use specific details, examples, or perhaps a personal experience to support your main reason. Some sentence starters might be: One reason (example, thing)...; As I see it, the main reason…; For instance…; The most important reason…; To begin with,…

6. The **third paragraph** should deal with the development of your second reason for your point of view, again using specific details to fully justify that reason. Any further paragraphs, except the final one, would follow the same pattern. Some sentence starters for these paragraphs might be: Another reason (point example) is…; Furthermore,…; In addition to…; On the other hand,…

7. The **final paragraph** should summarize wrote you and end with a concluding statement. You may also want to restate your point of view. Some sentence starters might be: For these reasons,…; In conclusion,… Finally,…; As a result of these things,…

8. Now that your “rough draft” is written, check it over to be sure that it says what you intended. Check these and make any changes:

   1. Does it completely cover the topic assigned, and does it stay on the topic?
   2. Are your paragraphs logical, interesting, and in the right order?
   3. Are all capitals and punctuation marks correct?
   4. Are all words spelled correctly as far as you know?
   5. Are you generally pleased with your essay? Will the reader easily understand your ideas, whether or not he/she agrees with them?

      If “yes” is the answer to all these questions, you must have written a good essay!

9. **Carefully** copy your essay over onto the final paper. Recheck it to be sure you have copied it exactly.
Begin writing your essay by choosing the topic. Some people like to make outlines or word webs to help organize their thoughts.

The first paragraph of your essay is the *Introduction*. The topic should be restated in this paragraph, in some form, so that the reader knows the subject. Be sure to state three ideas that can be developed in the three supporting detail paragraphs to follow.

1. Choose your topic from the list of essay topics provided, or choose one of your own.
2. Brainstorm about some ideas you can use to write about the topic. Get your thoughts together.
3. Write an outline or make a word/idea web if it helps you.
4. Begin writing your Introductory Paragraph.
5. Print out a copy of your work.
6. Email your paragraph to your instructor.
7. Be sure to save your work so that you can add to it and complete your essay.
The Five-Paragraph Essay

Introduction

Paragraph One:

This is where you state the main idea of your response. An introduction tells the reader what your response will be about. The main idea of the essay is expressed in the main topic sentence. The rest of the paragraph gives at least three details that support the main topic sentence. These three details will be developed in the body of the essay.

Body

Paragraph Two:

The first detail expands and supports your main idea and is contained in the topic sentence of Paragraph Two. The rest of the sentences support the topic sentence by giving facts, reasons, incidents, examples, or statistics to back up your main point.

Paragraph Three:

The second detail is contained in the topic sentence of Paragraph Three. The rest of the sentences in this paragraph support the topic sentence by giving facts, reasons, incidents, examples, or statistics that back up your main point.

Paragraph Four:

The third detail is contained in the topic sentence of Paragraph Four. The rest of the sentences in this paragraph support the topic sentence by giving facts, reason, incidents, examples, or statistics that back up your main point.

Conclusion

The conclusion summarizes all your main points. The topic sentence of your concluding paragraph should tie all your points together.

Transitions

Transitions are the words or phrases that connect the different points throughout your paper. Some examples of “transitional words” are first, second, next, before, and after. The transitions are the “mortar” that holds the bricks in place. Transitional words or sentences link one part of your response to another or one idea to another. Transitions are used throughout the paper to link your thoughts together.

Many people refer to organize their ideas in note or list form. Other people however, prefer to use a "picture" form of ideas that will be covered in their paper. This form of organizing one’s thoughts is called “clustering”.

Here is a sample essay. (Each of the 5 paragraphs should have at least 5 sentences.)

INTRODUCTION:

The telephone has greatly affected communication in the 20th Century in many ways. It has made our world seem smaller because we can talk to people all over the world instantly. Services of many types are much faster today. We also have new technology through different uses of phone lines. Let me give some examples of each.

FIRST SUPPORTING:

One of the ways the telephone has made our world seem smaller is by allowing us to contact different people anywhere in the world quickly. We can speak to family members far away to let them know a new baby was born. We can call our friends to let them know that their presence would be appreciated at a wedding. Also, we can find out just about anything in the world, such as big news which would affect us. Therefore, we can be in touch at any given moment with anyone in the world.

SECOND SUPPORTING:

Another way that the telephone affects our world is by allowing the service industry to be faster and more efficient. An example of this is that emergencies can be responded to much quicker than in the past, especially by using 911. You can also buy just about anything over the phone at no additional cost to you by using 1-800 services. At the same time, this communication aspect can be a hassle. How many times have you just sat down to eat when a salesman calls and interrupts?

THIRD SUPPORTING:

It's not just the telephone itself that enhances communications, it is also the telephone lines that have introduced new technology. One example of this is automated banking, or ATM's. Another much cheaper way to communicate is by using fax machines. Computers also use telephone lines to connect users. So those are many different uses and advancements in communication due to the invention of the telephone.

CONCLUSION:

As you can plainly see, the telephone has made a tremendous difference in 20th Century communication. It is simple to reach around the globe in a matter of minutes, or even seconds today. The current uses of phone lines are only stepping stones to the future. It is hard to imagine what will be next in communication. As this technology improves, the many uses of the phone will continue to improve and make life easier for the people of the world.
Essay Topics

1. Write about a hobby of yours. Tell why you enjoy it.

2. Tell about your favorite restaurant.

3. Explain why you want to get your GED.

4. Tell about someone that has made a big impact on your life.

5. Write a description of a trip you have taken or a place you have visited.

6. Tell about something you really dislike, something that bothers you immensely, or a pet peeve.

7. Would you like to be a tourist on the space shuttle? If you won a trip on the shuttle, would you keep it or give it away?

8. If you could “do lunch” with anyone, who would it be, and why?

9. If you could do one thing in your life over again, what would it be? Why?

10. Tell me about a movie or television show you have seen lately. What did you like or dislike about it?

11. Write about the happiest day of your life.

12. Tell about someone who has been a good friend to you.

13. Do you believe in miracles? Write about your feelings.

14. If you could change something about yourself, what would it be, and why?

15. Write about your favorite pet.
Writing Topics

1. A person you know is planning to move to your home town or city. What do you think this person would like and dislike about living in your town or city? Why? Use specific reasons and details to develop your essay.

2. It has recently been announced that a new movie theater may be built in your neighborhood. Do you support or oppose this plan? Why? Use specific reason and details to support your answer.

3. We all work or will work in our jobs with many different kinds of people. In your opinion, what are some important characteristics of a co-worker (someone you work closely with)? Use reasons and specific examples to explain why these characteristics are important.

4. It is better for children to grow up in the countryside than in a big city. Do you agree or disagree? Use specific reasons and examples to develop your essay.

5. In general, people are living longer now. Discuss the causes of this phenomenon. Use specific reasons and details to develop your essay.

6. What are some important qualities of a good supervisor (boss)? Use some specific details and examples to explain why these qualities are important.

7. Some people think that they can learn better by themselves than with a teacher. Others think that it is always better to have a teacher. Which do you prefer? Use specific reasons to develop your essay.

8. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? People should sometimes do things that they do not enjoy doing. Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
1. What do you like OR dislike about living in Florida?

2. Write about a member of your family that you feel is a “special” person.

3. Would you prefer to live in the city or the country?

4. What are important qualities that help make people make good parents?

5. What do you think “average citizens” can do to make life better for our society?

6. Write about several improvements that have been made in the area of transportation. Tell how these improvements have changed our daily lives.

7. Write about different kinds of pollution and what people can do to help stop pollution.

8. Write about how television has been good OR bad for us.

9. You have just won ten million dollars in the lottery. Tell what you would do with all that money.

10. Write about an activity, or outing, that a family can enjoy that doesn’t cost any “extra” money.

11. If you could be any famous person, who would you want to be, and why?

12. What are the advantages OR disadvantages of owning your own home?

13. Write about several ways a person can “stretch their income” or “make ends meet” on a limited budget.

14. Write about ways a person can make their mind and body healthier.