

Homework "1": *Individuals in Groups*

- Read all parts of this practice test booklet including the Writing Directions on the front cover and inside. Pay attention to the instructions at the top of each page, too.
- Read the **Reading Passage** on the next page and write your essay as instructed in the Writing Directions below it.
- Take no more than **90 minutes**; *time yourself*.
- At the next workshop class, please **hand it in** to your facilitator/s. They will comment on your writing in order to help you focus on areas that you can improve upon.

Last Name _____

First Name _____

Workshop #: _____

Date _____

This is a test of your writing skills. You will have **90 minutes** to read a brief passage and prepare a multi-paragraph writing sample in response to the reading. Your response must be written only on the paper in your test booklet. Before you begin writing your response, read the writing directions carefully to understand exactly what you are being asked to do. If you finish writing before time is up, you may review your work. Use your time efficiently.

Your response should be as well written as possible. Your writing will be evaluated on the following criteria: your ability to demonstrate understanding of the reading passage, to address all parts of the writing directions, to organize and develop your ideas, and to use correct English sentence structure and the grammatical conventions of edited American English.

In your test booklet, pages 3 and 4 are to be used to organize your writing. These pages will not be evaluated. Your writing sample score will be based only on the writing provided on pages 5 through 8. To ensure that you have enough room to finish, do not skip lines. Corrections or additions may be made neatly between the lines of your response, but do not write in the margins of the test booklet. Write clearly, as illegible writing cannot be scored.

Homework Assignment “I”

Begin by reading the passage below

Individuals in Groups

Something happens to individuals when they are in a group. They think and act differently than they would on their own. Most people, if they observe some disaster or danger on their own—a woman being stabbed, a pedestrian slammed by a hit-and-run driver—will at least call for help; many will even risk their own safety to intervene. But if they are in a group observing the same danger, they hold back. The reason has more to do with the nature of groups than the nature of individuals.

In one experiment in behavioral psychology, students were seated in a room, either alone or in groups of three, as a staged emergency occurred: Smoke began pouring through the vents. Students who were on their own usually hesitated a minute, got up, checked the vents and went out to report what certainly seemed like a fire. But the students who were sitting in groups of three did not move. They sat there for six minutes, with smoke so thick they could barely see, rubbing their eyes and coughing.

In another experiment, psychologists staged a situation in which people overheard a loud crash, a scream and a woman in pain, moaning that her ankle was broken. Seventy percent of those who were alone when the “accident” occurred went to her aid, compared with only 40 percent of those who heard her in the presence of another person.

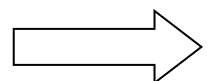
Psychologists call this “diffusion of responsibility” or “social loafing.” The more people in a group, the lazier each individual in it becomes. Often, observers think nothing needs to be done because someone else has already taken care of it, and the more observers there are, the less likely any one person is to call for help.

Adapted by “In Groups We Shrink” by Carol Tavris. Originally published in the Los Angeles Times. 1991.

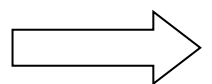
Writing Directions

Read the passage above and write an essay responding to the ideas it presents. In your essay, be sure to summarize the passage in your own words, stating the author’s most important ideas. Develop your essay by identifying one idea in the passage that you feel is especially significant, and explain its significance. Support your claims with evidence or examples drawn from what you have read, learned in school, and/or personally experienced.

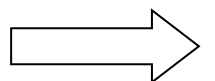
Remember to review your essay and make any changes or corrections that will help your reader follow your thinking. You will have 90 minutes to complete your essay.



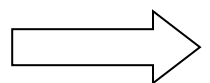
Use pages 3 & 4 for organizing what you plan to Write



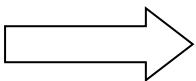
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Continue Your Essay Writing Sample on this Page



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