

## Homework “E”: *The End of The Entrance Exam*

- **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 “E”

Begin by reading the passage below

### The End of the Entrance Exam

Smith College, a women’s college in Northampton, MA, and Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, NC, will no longer require prospective students to submit SAT or ACT scores as part of their applications.

The number of institutions where tests are now optional has grown steadily. More institutions have become concerned about the validity of standardized tests in predicting academic success as well as the degree to which test performance correlates with household income, parental education and race. Some schools that have made standardized tests optional have found that they have attracted a more diverse student body, with no decline in academic ability.

“By making the SAT and ACT optional, we hope to broaden the applicant pool and increase access at Wake Forest for groups of students who are currently under-represented,” said Martha Allman, Wake Forest’s director of admissions. Even though students will still have the option of submitting standardized test scores the most important criteria for admission will be high school curriculum and classroom performance, writing ability, extracurricular activities and evidence of character and talent.

Wake Forest, with 4,500 undergraduates, is ranked 30th among national universities by U.S. News & World Report, and is the highest-ranked on that list to have dropped its testing requirements. Smith, the nation’s largest undergraduate women’s college, with 2,600 students, received 3,771 applications this year, the most in its 137-year history.

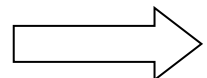
Generally, only small colleges and universities with the resources to pay attention to recommendations, essays and extracurricular activities, as well as to a student’s grades and test scores, have been able to eliminate their testing requirements. But some state universities now admit most of their freshman class without regard to standardized test scores.

*Adapted from Tamar Lewin’s “2 Colleges End Entrance Exam Requirement” in the New York Times, 2008.*

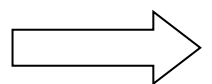
### Writing Directions

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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