

The GRE Analytical Writing Templates

When it comes to GRE essays, most test takers tend to forget that not all that you write on your test day has to be 100% prompt or topic specific. There are parts of the essay that can be written prior to your exam and used as-is or with slight adjustments. We call this smart writing. Isn't it smart, eh?

Why should you do this? Because there's a huge upside in doing it this way – you can save precious time by writing the essay even before you brainstorm for ideas, without having to think and vet it all in those 30 minutes of time.

Alright! Ready to write an essay using a pre-written template that will save you valuable time on test day?

Let's dive into the template below to get started.

Plan Your Essay

Take a few minutes to plan out what you want to write about so that you can stay on topic and answer the prompt accurately.

Step 1: Create an Outline

The typical GRE essay consists of:

- **An introduction:** Sets the stage for what you plan to address in through your essay.
- **A body:** Discusses at least 3-4 arguments/flaws with examples in a logical order – each with an explanation.
- **A conclusion:** Wraps up your essay with a brief statement that's reflective of what your essay says.

Ask yourself this question: what are all the points you need to cover to introduce your essay, explain each point, and remind the grader of what they just read?

Fill in the Essay Template

This exercise is going to be a hands-on experience for you. We have given the templates below for both argument and issue essays, and there is a text box at the end of each instruction. To practice writing AWA essays, all you need to do is:

1. Pick a random AWA question from the pool of essays. (check Resources at end of this guide)
2. Read each of the following steps carefully.
3. Copy the text on the right side of the table and paste it in the text box below.
4. Change the text in the {parenthesis} and replace it with your own sentences specific to the chosen topic.
5. Now you have an essay that gets you a 6.0 on the AWA.

Step 2: Write the Introduction

When writing your introduction, you want to keep one question top of mind: *How can I establish credibility and get the grader to care about the topic I am about to discuss?*

INTRODUCTION FOR ISSUE ESSAY:

Steps to Writing Your Introduction	Example With <i>Italicized Green Text</i> that Can Be Replaced with Topic Specific Text
1) Write a compelling opening that empathizes with the grader on the given topic	This topic raises the controversial issue of whether <i>{main issue}</i> .
2) Explain the issue in further detail.	Indisputably, <i>{admit some value in the opposite opinion}</i> .
3) Explain how you'll refute it	Nevertheless, <i>{provide evidence to refute the opposite opinion}</i> .
4) Transition into the body where you'll explain your point further	Thus, I generally disagree with the opinion that <i>{opposite opinion}</i> , and would argue that <i>{main assertion}</i> .

INTRODUCTION FOR ARGUMENT ESSAY:

Steps to Writing Your Introduction	Example With <i>Italicized Green Text</i> that Can Be Replaced with Topic Specific Text
1) Restate the argument	The author argues/concludes/claims here that <i>{main argument}</i> .
2) State your stand on the topic	<p>Stated in this way, the argument</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. fails to mention several key factors, on the basis of which it could be evaluated 2. reveals several instances of poor reasoning and ill-defined terminology 3. distorts the view of the situation by manipulating facts and by providing weak examples/evidences. <p><i>[Use any one of the above, or make a sentence on your own, that reflects a similar tone and meaning.]</i></p>
3) State the main flaw/assumption	To justify/support (OR: In support of) this conclusion/recommendation/argument, the author reasons/notes that.... However, careful scrutiny of the evidence reveals that it provides little credible support for the author's recommendation/conclusion

4) State your conclusive remarks on the argument	Hence the argument can be considered incomplete or unsubstantiated.
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Now it's your turn! **Start crafting an introduction in the box provided below.**

Step 3: Write the Body

Remember, the body follows through on what you promised in the introduction. Your body should be written in paragraphs – one paragraph for each point. You can make use of whichever format is easiest for you though.

Just be cognizant of this question: *What are all the pieces of information I need to explain in order to avoid confusion with the issue/argument at hand?*

BODY OF THE ISSUE ESSAY:

Steps to Writing Your Body	Example With <i>Italicized Green Text</i> that Can Be Replaced with Topic Specific Text
1) Continue from one example to the other while using several transition words all through	First of all, <i>{assert a positive viewpoint}</i> . I would like to point out that the <i>{main support to the position}</i> . To illustrate, let us look at the example of <i>{an example}</i> . In this circumstance, obviously <i>{some observation}</i> . Consequently, it is pretty obvious that <i>{main assertion}</i> .
2) Second paragraph	Furthermore, <i>{refute the opposite side, e.g. if .. not true, then ..}</i> . Specifically, <i>{look into one area to discuss the effect}</i> . Both common sense and personal experience have told us that Hence, all the evidence above demonstrates that ...
3) Third paragraph and the transition into the conclusion.	Admittedly, <i>{opposite opinion}</i> . This is true especially when it comes to <i>{specific areas or applications}</i> . In addition, <i>{further provide some support}</i> . However, the above argument does not constitute a sufficient support to claim that <i>{opposite opinion}</i> . Because <i>{some reason}</i> , <i>{main refutation}</i> .

BODY OF THE ARGUMENT ESSAY:

Steps to Writing Your Body	Example With <i>Italicized Green Text</i> that Can Be Replaced with Topic Specific Text
1) Continue from one example to the other while using several transition words all through	First of all, the argument readily assumes that... <i>{first/biggest assumption}</i> This is merely an assumption made without much solid ground. For example.. <i>{provide examples or ask questions}</i> Hence the argument would have been much more convincing if it explicitly stated that

2) Second paragraph	<p>The argument readily claims that/the author also points out that .../cites that ... <i>{second assumption}</i></p> <p>This again is a weak and unsupported claim as it does not demonstrate any clear correlation between {A and B}. To illustrate further, <i>{provide examples or ask questions}</i></p> <p>If the argument had provided evidence that.....then it would have been a lot more convincing to the reader.</p>
3) Third paragraph and the transition into the conclusion.	<p>Finally, the author/someone cites/notes that ...<i>{third/final assumption}</i></p> <p>However, careful scrutiny of the evidence reveals that it provides little credible support for the author’s conclusion in several critical respects, and raises several skeptical questions. For example, <i>{ask three to four questions}</i>. Without convincing answers to these questions, the reader is left with the impression that the claims made by the author are more of a wishful thinking rather than substantive evidence.</p>

Now it’s your turn! **Start crafting the body paragraphs in the box provided below.**

Step 8: Write the Conclusion

Your conclusion is where you’ll paraphrase the main point you outlined earlier in the brainstorming stages

CONCLUSION FOR THE ISSUE TASK:

Steps to Writing Your Conclusion	Example With <i>Italicized Green Text</i> that Can Be Replaced with Topic Specific Text
1) Restate the main point your essay is trying to say	<p>In conclusion, although <i>{the opposite side}</i>, <i>{refute the opposite and give main support}</i>. As long as some measurements are performed, or some areas are involved, <i>{main conclusion still holds}</i>. In fact, <i>{extend the topic to broader/more abstract areas}</i>.</p>

CONCLUSION FOR THE ARGUMENT TASK:

Steps to Writing Your Conclusion	Example With <i>Italicized Green Text</i> that Can Be Replaced with Topic Specific Text
1) Recap of thesis statement and summarize the essay	<p>In conclusion, the author’s argument is unpersuasive as it stands. To bolster it further, the author must provide clear/better/more concrete evidence, perhaps by way of a reliable survey/a detailed analysis of <i>{the main topic}</i>.... Finally, to better assess/evaluate the argument/survey, it would be necessary to know more information about why/what/how ...<i>{the main assumption}</i></p>

Now it's your turn! **Start crafting the conclusion in the box provided below.**

GRE AWA Resources:

Here are links to some very important GRE AWA resources. Ctrl+Click to open a link.

1. [CrunchPrep's Advanced Guide to GRE Analytical Writing](#)
2. [21 Killer GRE Essay Quotes You Should Use](#)
3. [Why is the AWA Section So Important?](#)
4. [ETS Argument Essay Question Pool](#)
5. [ETS Issue Essay Question Pool](#)