In-Class Essay 1

CSU Dominguez Hills Sample GWE Prompt (http://www4.csudh.edu/testing-center/gwar/gwe-preparation/index)

There is no doubt that America is a melting pot; by the same token, there is no doubt that most members of specific races and nationalities strive their whole lives to maintain a link with their original ethnic identity and culture. The two impulses, blending into American society and maintaining ethnic identity, are not always compatible. Often, success is interpreted as total immersion in and assimilation by the new culture. Do you agree or disagree with this assumption? Argue for a lifestyle that emphasizes assimilation or a lifestyle that emphasizes the maintenance of cultural ties, and indicate which lifestyle better leads to success in the American culture.

In-Class 2

Cal Poly Pomona GWT Practice Topic (https://www.cpp.edu/~lrc/documents/GWT%20Practice%20Topic%201.pdf)

GWT

Practice Topic #1

Back to the Good Old Days

People often talk about how things were better back in the “good old days." Grandparents sometimes think that people were more polite in the past, or more respectful of elders.

Others might think that houses were built better, that cars had more style, or products were higher quality. Some people think that food tasted better, that life was simpler, and that people had better values.

In a well-organized essay, answer the following question:

*Were things really better in the “good old days”? Choose one or more aspects of human life that some people think was better in the past. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of how things were done in the past versus the present.*

Support your ideas with examples from your own experience, from books you have read, movies you have seen, or other sources.

Note: Your essay will be more focused if you choose one specific area of everyday life. For example, if you chose “communications,” you could compare letter writing with text messaging on a cell phone. A rock musician might talk about the ways in which “vintage” equipment is superior to current models. Similarly, you could choose fashion, transportation, education, etiquette, music, etc.

In-Class Essay 3

Selected from CSU East Bay Practice Prompts (http://www.csueastbay.edu/academic/colleges-and-departments/apgs/testing/files/docs/wst-sample-essay-topics.pdf)

Pick one prompt for your essay.

1. Some people believe that salary is the most important consideration when choosing a job or a career, while others believe that job satisfaction is the most important issue to consider when making these choices. What do you think should be the main consideration when choosing a job or career path? Make sure you support your position with reasons, explanations, and examples.

2. We see cell/mobile phones almost everywhere, from cars and buses to restaurants and classrooms. Many people argue that cell/mobile phones have become a necessary part of modern life and, as such, should be unrestricted. Others argue, however, that they can be disruptive and thus there should be limitations on their use. Should there be regulations limiting the use of cell/mobile phones? Make sure you support your position with reasons, explanations, and examples.

In-Class Essay 4

Selected from CSU East Bay Practice Prompts (http://www.csueastbay.edu/academic/colleges-and-departments/apgs/testing/files/docs/wst-sample-essay-topics.pdf)

Pick one prompt for your essay:

1. Some people argue that technology and modern conveniences have improved our quality of life, while others argue that they have had a negative impact on quality of life. Do you think that technology and modern conveniences have a negative or a positive impact on our lives? Make sure you support your position with reasons, explanations, and examples.

2. Some people argue that society should provide free health coverage to all of its members, while others argue that individuals should be financially responsible for their own care and well-being. Should the government provide universal health coverage? Make sure you support your position with reasons, explanations, and examples.

Make-up In-Class Essay

Derived from questions from CSULB (http://www.cla.csulb.edu/departments/english/wrl/the-writing-proficiency-exam/wpe-teaching-prompts/)

Pick one prompt for your essay.

1. Some people argue that progress in the US will require people to respect and preserve cultural differences. Others argue that progress will be better served by uniting the people with a single culture. Will progress towards a better country be advanced more by respecting and preserving cultural differences or by uniting with a single national culture? Make sure you support your position with reasons, explanations, and examples.

2. Some people argue that the large number of languages spoken in California results in advantages for the state. Others argue that the large number of languages causes serious social problems. Do the advantages of having a large number of languages spoken outweigh the disadvantages? Make sure you support your position with reasons, explanations, and examples.