

WRITING THE ENGINEERING WRITING TEST (EWT)

Students enrolled in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science may choose to take the Engineering Writing Test (EWT) in order to fulfill their writing skills requirements. The EWT should be taken within the first 30 credits of a student's program after all required English as a Second Language courses have been completed.

HOW TO WRITE PART ONE OF THE EWT (60 MINUTES APPROX.)

Part One of the EWT requires you to write a two-paragraph composition based on a short essay.

1. Take 15 minutes to read, generate ideas and plan before you write

- **Survey the essay:** read the headline or title. Can you guess the content from the key words? What do you already know about this subject?
- **Read through the essay** and try to understand what the writer is saying. As you read, highlight or underline key points. If you do not understand some words, do not panic; try to guess from the context and focus on what you DO understand.
- **Reread the beginning and end of the essay.** Try to determine the writer's thesis or main claim and write it down in your own words. Check back to the headline or title of the essay as well as the introduction or conclusion to confirm the author's thesis.
- **Go back over each paragraph** and write down the main idea of each one in your own words in the margins. Ask yourself, how does each main idea relate to the overall thesis?
- **Look for the supporting information** in each paragraph. Underline statistics, examples and anecdotes.

2. Take 30 minutes to write your composition

Follow the structure outlined below and incorporate the ideas you generated. Try to write quickly and focus on ideas. Remember, you will be reserving 15 minutes for revising and editing so try not to worry too much about correctness at this stage.

Paragraph 1 (5 to 8 sentences)

- Begin the first paragraph with the sentence you wrote summarizing the main claim or thesis of the essay. Include the author and title of the article.
Eg: *Chris Mellon, in his article entitled Why a Geocode is Not an Address, argues that...*
- Add the writer's key points in support of this idea by summarizing the points you highlighted in the text.

Paragraph 2 (5 to 8 sentences)

- This paragraph requires you to explain how the author supports his or her main points.
- Work with the information you underlined keeping in mind the thesis from your first paragraph.
- Select only the KEY supporting details; with a limit of 5-8 sentences, you will not have enough space to explain all of the author's ideas.
- Begin with a topic sentence that reminds the reader of the author's main claim and explains that they will read about how the author supports their ideas

Eg: *In order to support his ideas, Mellon draws on several examples taken from...*

- Remember to write out the supporting information in your own words.

3. Take 15 minutes to Revise and edit your composition

Read through your composition to make sure all your ideas are clear. Check for confusing, incomplete or repetitive information. Make necessary deletions or changes.

- Read through again slowly to correct your sentence structure and language.
- Try to mouth the words as you read so that you can "hear" them in your head. This helps you find sentences that are too long as well as awkward and incorrect language.
- As you read, move your pen over each word to make sure you have not omitted any words and to check spelling.
- If you know you make typical errors such as faulty pronoun reference or subject/verb agreement, check specifically for these.

A Further Way to Practice for Part One of the EWT

Select a short article or opinion piece from a newspaper or magazine. Work through the process of planning and writing a two-paragraph composition. Allow yourself only 60 minutes maximum. Make an appointment with a Student Success Centre [Writing Assistant](#) and bring your writing for some feedback.

HOW TO WRITE PART TWO OF THE EWT

This information is quoted from the [EWT web site](#)

In this section, you will be asked to interpret and write about data presented in the form of a pie chart, bar graph, line graph or diagram. You answer several questions about the data in two or three sentences each. To prepare for this section, find a graph or chart in a newspaper, magazine or on the Internet. Consider what information is provided by the graph. What trends does it demonstrate? To whom is this graph important and why? What conclusions can be drawn from the graph? kind of decisions might be made on the basis of the information contained in the graph?

For more information on the EWT and how to register, visit:

<https://www.concordia.ca/encs/students/new-students/writing-test.ht>