

# Writing Essay (e-Write)

You'll be given a writing task (prompt) framed within a familiar context. This might be a community or school setting where a problem or issue related to that setting is presented.

The prompt requires that you take a position and offer a solution supported with specific examples or evidence regarding the position taken. You should adopt one or the other of the points of view or solutions described in the writing prompt. Your score will not be affected by the point of view you take on the issue.

## Sample COMPASS e-Write Prompt

A School Board is concerned that the state's requirements for core courses in mathematics, English, science, and social studies may prevent students from taking important elective courses like music, other languages, and vocational education. The School Board would like to encourage more high school students to take elective courses and is considering two proposals. One proposal is to lengthen the school day to provide students with the opportunity to take elective courses. The other proposal is to offer elective courses in the summer. Write a letter to the School Board in which you argue for lengthening the school day or for offering elective courses during the summer, explaining why you think your choice will encourage more students to take elective courses.

Begin your letter: Dear School Board:

Your response is evaluated according to how well you:

- Formulate a clear and focused position on the issue in the prompt
- Support that position with reasons and evidence appropriate to the position taken
- Focus on concerns of the specified audience (e.g., school board)
- Develop your argument in a coherent and logical manner
- Express your ideas using clear, effective language

You will receive a lower score for not taking a position on the specified issue, not supporting that position with reasons and evidence, not developing the argument, or not expressing those ideas using clear, effective language.