

# PLACEMENT TESTING FOR STUDENTS - ACCUPLACER®

College Board developed the SAT and ACCUPLACER. The ACCUPLACER webpage is <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/accuplacer/>

## Why Prepare for ACCUPLACER?

**PREPARE SO YOUR TEST RESULTS ACCURATELY REFLECT YOUR SKILL LEVEL  
FOR PLACEMENT IN COLLEGE CLASSES.**

TCC strongly recommends you take advantage of the opportunity to review and prepare for testing. We believe your test scores will more accurately represent your skill levels if you will review basic concepts in reading, grammar, arithmetic, and algebra before taking ACCUPLACER.

## **INTRODUCTION FOR STUDENTS**

The purpose of ACCUPLACER tests is to provide you with useful information about your academic skills in math, English, and reading. The results of the assessment, in conjunction with your academic background, goals, and interests, are used by academic advisors and counselors to determine your course selection.

You cannot "pass" or "fail" the placement tests, but it is very important that you do your very best on these tests so that you will have an accurate measure of your academic skills.

## **HOW IT WORKS**

### **Computer Adaptive Testing**

ACCUPLACER is an adaptive test. This means that the questions are chosen for you on the basis of your answers to previous questions. This technique selects just the right questions for your ability level. Because the test works this way, you must answer every question when it is first given. Each test is untimed so that you can give each question as much thought as you wish. You can change your answer to a particular question before moving on to the next question, but you cannot leave a question out or come back to it later to change your answer.

If you do not know the answer to a question, try to eliminate one or more of the choices. Then pick from the remaining choices.

### **Testing Time -**

NOT timed - take as long as you wish

### **Cost of Testing for Tarrant County High School Students:**

High School Students who live in Tarrant County test for FREE. Retests are not free. There is an \$11 per section fee).

Free testing for Dual Enrollment students is for Tarrant County Residents only.  
Out-of-District High School Dual Enrollment students MUST pay for testing.

### **What to Take with You to take the Test**

High School students in Tarrant County must have their HS Photo ID to test for free.

**YOU MUST BRING YOUR High School PHOTO ID!**

**NO HIGH SCHOOL PHOTO ID → NO FREE TESTING → NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Retests are not free. There is an \$11 per section fee.

### **Which tests do I take?**

Dual Credit student students must take READING and ESSAY/Sentence Structure. Dual Credit students are only required to take the Math Placement portion of the test IF he/she is seeking to take a MATH class or a MATH placement score is required for the course(s) he/she is seeking to take.

## Testing Regulations

**No calculators are allowed.** An on-line calculator will be available. Additionally, anyone who gives or receives help during the test, or uses notes, books, or calculators of any kind may not be allowed to continue the test. TCC will disregard a test score if there is reason to question its validity.

## At the End of the Test

Once you have completed the ACCUPLACER, a score report will be created. The testing center will provide you the report. Take the report to the person or office listed on YOUR HS Checklist. Sometimes the Testing Center may ask you to talk with Dr. Locke. If she is not available, please go to the Registrar Office, they can contact her.

## Students with Disabilities

If you require test accommodations due to a documented disability, please call the Testing Center (817-515-4535) at least two (2) days prior to your testing day to request testing accommodations. The center will let you know if additional paperwork is required. Or you may call Dr. Locke and she will assist you. YOU MUST call at least 2 days in advance.

## Tips for Taking ACCUPLACER

1. GET A GOOD NIGHTS of REST. You will be able to concentrate better on the test if you get plenty of rest and eat properly prior to the test. If you get cold easily, bring a jacket or hoodie or sweater...so you may LAYER your clothes. .
2. Plan on arriving a few minutes early so you can acquaint yourself with the environment and gather your thoughts before the test begins. If you wear glasses, remember to bring them!
3. Relax! ACCUPLACER was designed to facilitate your success in college. Your score helps you and your advisor to determine which courses are most appropriate for your current level of knowledge and skills. Once your academic strengths and needs are identified, we can find the help you need to improve underdeveloped skills before they interfere with your learning. The Early High School/Dual Enrollment students may continue to take high school coursework to prepare.
4. Make sure you understand all administrative and test directions before you begin the ACCUPLACER. The testing administrators present will be able to address any of your questions or concerns. The information in this guide will help you understand how the test works.
5. Because this is an "adaptive test", questions are chosen for you on the basis of your answers to previous questions. You must answer every question when it is first given and there is no returning to previous questions.
6. If you do not know the answer to a question, try to logically eliminate one or more of the choices then pick one of the remaining choices.
7. You are not allowed to use dictionaries, calculators, notebooks, or textbooks of any kind on the test. Scratch paper for solving math problems will be provided by the test administrator. Any student who gives or receives help during the test, or uses notes or books of any kind will not be allowed to continue the test. Following your test period, no test materials or notes may be removed from the room.
8. Remember to bring a form of picture I.D. and your TCC College ID number with you to the testing session.
9. Allow plenty of time ...ACCUPLACER is not timed. You work at your own pace!
10. **Remember that success is hard work, attitude and dedication (a can-do and I will keep trying spirit)!** It takes all of these ingredients to have success! So please practice before you come and bring a positive attitude and spirit! MUCH SUCCESS!

# Should I Study for ACCUPLACER?

YES!!! PLEASE STUDY

**TCC strongly recommends you take advantage of the opportunity to review and prepare for testing. We believe your test scores will more accurately represent your skill levels if you will review basic concepts in reading, grammar, arithmetic, and algebra before taking ACCUPLACER.**

We encourage you to become very familiar with the testing format and types of questions. Most students see significant increases in his/her scores when they review for as little as an hour to hour and half per section. It really helps to practice writing an essay on a controversial topic. Go through and practice on the free practice tests!

A student cannot "pass" or "fail" the placement tests. The scores are used to determine placement in college classes.

## **ACCUPLACER TESTS**

The placement tests may consist of:

- Answering questions covering reading, mathematics, writing and language use skills
- Writing an essay on a familiar topic
- All questions are multiple choice, except the essay

## **Reading Comprehension**

There are 20 questions of two primary types on the Reading Comprehension test.

- The first type consists of a reading passage followed by a question based on the text. Both short and long passages are provided. The reading passages can also be classified according to the kind of information processing required including explicit statements related to the main idea, explicit statements related to a secondary idea, application, and inference.
- The second type of question, sentence relationships, presents two sentences followed by a question about the relationship between these two sentences. The question may ask, for example, if the statement in the second sentence supports that in the first, if it contradicts it, or if it repeats the same information.

## **Sentence Skills**

There are 20 Sentence Skills questions of two types.

- The first type is **sentence correction** questions that require an understanding of sentence structure. These questions ask you to choose the most appropriate word or phrase to substitute for the underlined portion of the sentence.
- The second type is **construction shift** questions. These questions ask that a sentence be rewritten according to the criteria shown while maintaining essentially the same meaning as the original sentence.

Within these two primary categories, the questions are also classified according to the skills being tested. Some questions deal with the logic of the sentence, others with whether or not the answer is a complete sentence, and still others with the relationship between coordination and subordination.

## The Essay Portion of the test

This test measures your ability to write effectively, which is critical to academic success. Your writing sample will be scored on the basis of how effectively it communicates a whole message to the readers for the stated purpose. Your score will be based on your ability to express, organize, and support your opinions and ideas, not the position you take on the essay topic. The following five characteristics of writing will be considered:

- Focus—The clarity with which you maintain your main idea or point of view
- Organization—The clarity with which you structure your response and present a logical sequence of ideas
- Development and Support—The extent to which you elaborate on your ideas and the extent to which you present supporting details
- Sentence Structure—The effectiveness of your sentence structure
- Mechanical Conventions—The extent to which your writing is free of errors in usage and mechanics

### Information about the Essay:

You will be asked to write a multiple-paragraph writing sample of about 300–600 words on a topic that will be provided at the test. Students will write on a given topic, and the essays are evaluated for the fluency with which they have expressed their opinions and thoughts.

Essays are scored electronically by the Intelligent Essay Assessor, powered by the Knowledge Analysis Technologies engine. To ensure a better score, students ought to aim for writing a 600 word essay, use different types of persuasion, use transitions between paragraphs, take a stand on a position, use a wide array of vocabulary, and use plenty of synonyms.

Practice on a controversial topic such as “All students should be required to participate in an organized school sport.” There are MANY different controversial topics and you need to:

- Take a position on the topics (either agree or disagree)
- Defend your position with logical arguments and appropriate examples.
- Your essay must be 300–600 words in length. Please consider that 300 words is a minimum essay and it is difficult to cover the topic in only 300 words. Please consider aiming toward the maximum number of words versus the minimum number of words.

You will not be timed. So please use the unlimited time available to plan, write, review, and edit what you have written. Read the assignment carefully before you begin to write. Please REREAD it before you submit. If you want, ask the testing center staff for a piece of paper and write the essay and then type it into ACCUPLACER.

**Arithmetic Test** –You probably will not take MATH ACCUPLACER since Dual Credit students will not be tested on MATH [UNLESS you request to take a college level Math class while in HS.](#)

This test measures your ability to perform basic arithmetic operations and to solve problems that involve fundamental arithmetic concepts. There are 17 questions on the Arithmetic tests divided into three types.

- Operations with whole numbers and fractions: topics included in this category are addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, recognizing equivalent fractions and mixed numbers, and estimating.
- Operations with decimals and percents: topics include addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division with decimals. Percent problems, recognition of decimals, fraction and percent equivalencies, and problems involving estimation are also given.
- Applications and problem solving: topics include rate, percent, and measurement problems, simple geometry problems, and distribution of a quantity into its fractional parts.

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## Elementary Algebra

A total of 12 questions are administered in this test.

- The first type involves operations with integers and rational numbers, and includes computation with integers and negative rationals, the use of absolute values, and ordering.
- A second type involves operations with algebraic expressions using evaluation of simple formulas and expressions, and adding and subtracting monomials and polynomials. Questions involve multiplying and dividing monomials and polynomials, the evaluation of positive rational roots and exponents, simplifying algebraic fractions, and factoring.
- The third type of question involves the solution of equations, inequalities, word problems. solving linear equations and inequalities, the solution of quadratic equations by factoring, solving verbal problems presented in an algebraic context, including geometric reasoning and graphing, and the translation of written phrases into algebraic expressions.

## College Level Math Test

There are 20 questions on the College-Level Mathematics.

The College-Level Mathematics test assesses from intermediate algebra through precalculus.

- Algebraic operations includes simplifying rational algebraic expressions, factoring, expanding polynomials, and manipulating roots and exponents.
- Solutions of equations and inequalities includes the solution of linear and quadratic equations and inequalities, equation systems and other algebraic equations.
- Coordinate geometry includes plane geometry, the coordinate plane, straight lines, conics, sets of points in the plane, and graphs of algebraic functions.
- Applications and other algebra topics ask about complex numbers, series and sequences, determinants, permutations and combinations, fractions, and word problems.
- The last category, functions and trigonometry, presents questions about polynomials, algebraic, exponential, logarithmic and trigonometric functions.

## **ACCUPLACER REVIEW & STUDY GUIDE MATERIALS-FREE *Internet search 1-21-12***

I found these materials by GOOGLING ... ACCUPLACER Prep FREE Reading, Next I GOOGLED... ACCUPLACER PREP ESSAY FREE. There are so many practice materials out there. BEWARE Of those that charge—look for free materials, especially when it is from a college or university. Ignore the information that is specific to their college/university. TCC procedures is provided at the beginning of this hand-out. Much success with your REVIEW and PRACTICE.

### *Why Prepare?*

**YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO PREPARE FOR THE ACCUPLACER PLACEMENT TEST SO YOUR TEST RESULTS ACCURATELY REFLECT YOUR SKILL LEVEL FOR PLACEMENT IN ENGLISH, READING AND MATH.**

**<http://www.studyguidezone.com/pdfs/accuplacerteststudyguide.pdf>** . 50 page paper and pencil review guide that seems to be pretty good. It is free and is downloaded as a pdf. Their disclaimer at the bottom of the weblink... © 2011 Copyright Study Guide Zone. All rights reserved. All information on this site is provided as is, without warranty. Since we are giving information away, we cannot be held liable for incidental mistakes. Test names and other trademarks are the property of the respective trademark holders. None of the trademark holders are affiliated with StudyGuideZone.com. Permission is not required to add a link to this resource.

**<http://www.johnstoncc.edu/pdfs/accuplacerstudyguide.pdf>**. This is a very helpful guide. It can be printed (54 pages). Please ignore the information that is specific to Johnston Community College such as their testing times, locations, college procedures, etc. The information I want to review is the ACTUAL Reading, Sentence Structure and Math sections which help you become familiar with the ACCUPLACER test.

**<http://brookdalecc.edu/pages/453.asp#reading>** This is an on-line practice for the Reading section.

*These are great ....Check them out!*

**<http://accuplacer-test.com/accuplacer-study-guide.htm>**

**<http://accuplacer-test.com/free-accuplacer-test.htm>**

**<http://accuplacer-test.com/accuplacer-sample-test-questions.htm>**

**<http://demo-test.accuplacer-test.com/>**

**<http://www.minneapolis.edu/Admissions/Placement-Tests/Test-Preparation>** Check under the section *Resources for refreshing your skills*. These resources are free and online – no need to pay for review materials!

**<http://valenciacollege.edu/assessments/cpt/documents/CPTReadingreview.pdf>**

Practice tests and review tips for each skill area included on the Accuplacer: Reading Comprehension, Sentence Skills and Math (Arithmetic, Elementary Algebra and College Level Math). The study guides were prepared by the faculty at Valencia Community College for students planning to retake the Accuplacer Test.

**<http://www.rockvalleycollege.edu/Admission/Testing/upload/ACCUPLACER-Resources.pdf>** Rock Valley College, Rockford, IL

**<http://www.bhcc.mass.edu/inside/108>** Bunker Hill Community College, Boston , MASS

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**<http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/Departments/AssessCtr/studyguide.htm>**

*On-line Accuplacer Sample Questions* Sample questions are shown below for each of the ACCUPLACER tests. Those presented cover only a few of the areas covered by each test. Keep in mind that these sample questions are not meant to be a study guide. These are designed to give you a general idea of the types of questions you will find on the Accuplacer tests.

**<http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/Departments/AssessCtr/AccuplacerSamplePF.html>** A pencil and paper

Sample Questions: There are MORE questions and provide explanation of the correct response.

Study Guide courtesy of Aims Community College Greeley, CO

**<http://www.aims.edu/student/assessment/studyguides/>**

Aims Accuplacer Study Guides - Study Guides in .pdf format Requiring Adobe Acrobat

- [Reading Skills Study Guide \(OSU\)](#)
- [Sentence Skills Study Guide](#)
- [Arithmetic Study Guides](#)
- [Elementary Algebra Study Guide](#)
- [College Level Math Study Guide](#)

**<http://www.huntington.edu/Accuplacer-Practice-Tests/>**

Online ACCUPLACER practice tests

**<http://www.frontrange.edu/assessment/>**

Scroll down the page and check out the various study guide links.

**<http://www.monroecc.edu/depts/counsel/placementtest.htm>**

This is the main page and the Placement Testing Booklet is linked to this page... The study guide packet (24 pages) is at **[http://www.monroecc.edu/depts/counsel/documents/PlacementTestingBooklet2010\\_000.pdf](http://www.monroecc.edu/depts/counsel/documents/PlacementTestingBooklet2010_000.pdf)**

**[http://www.ocean.edu/academics/special\\_programs/tech\\_prep/documents/BRIDGECURRICULUM-WRITEPLACER.pdf](http://www.ocean.edu/academics/special_programs/tech_prep/documents/BRIDGECURRICULUM-WRITEPLACER.pdf)** (Essay) Choose the parts of this handbook that deal with writing the

essay...it will help you.

**<http://professionals.collegeboard.com/profdownload/accuplacer-writeplacer-sample-essays.pdf>** (Essay) College Board provided this and they developed ACCUPLACER. You might like the

information.

**<http://www.accuplacer-test.com/accuplacer-essay-writing.htm>** (ESSAY) Another good one to

review!

**<http://ux.brookdalecc.edu/fac/writing/095/practice/welaccplprntsk.html>**. This is an on-

line practice for the sentence structure section.

**[http://www.cpcc.edu/testing\\_assessment/placement-testing/accuplacer-study-guides](http://www.cpcc.edu/testing_assessment/placement-testing/accuplacer-study-guides)**

**[CPCC ACCUPLACER Practice Tests](#)**— last modified 2011-02-28 16:38

These tests are to be used as practice for the ACCUPLACER placement tests and as part of the CPCC ACCUPLACER retest policy. Because they are used in part to authorize retests, an answer key is not provided.

**[Official ACCUPLACER Sample Questions](#)**— last modified 2010-04-01 12:17

CPCC administers Reading Comprehension, Sentence Skills, Arithmetic, Algebra, and in some cases College Level Math.

**[Math Symbols Chart](#)**— last modified 2011-04-08 16:49

A chart that represents commonly used mathematical symbols and their meanings.

**[KHANACADEMY Math Video Review](#)**— last modified 2011-03-23 09:47

Review how to work math problems by watching review videos.

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**Additional ACCUPLACER Math Study Guides**— last modified 2011-03-03 10:12

**EnableMath College**— last modified 2009-08-24 16:34 If you are planning to take a college math placement test or have taken one and would like to retake the test to improve your score, we are offering the EnableMath Test-Prep Program. This program is **Free of Charge** to any student who wishes to prepare on their own for the Accuplacer or Compass Placement Test in either Arithmetic or Beginning Algebra. The package includes sample tests and the full complement of content from Arithmetic to Algebra, including mastery-based assignments, step-through examples and dynamic visualizations of the math concepts.

**Additional Math HELP**— last modified 2009-03-05 15:37

## **<http://www.ccaurora.edu/students/academic-support/tutoring-services/math-access-review> MATH ONLY**

This college has Video Math Study Guides (by Community College of Aurora). They have a math review and English and Reading review...the handouts are online ... easy to access... They have an on-line VIDEO to help you.

### **Pre-Assessment Math Review**

Prepare for the Arithmetic and Elementary Algebra sections of the Accuplacer Assessment by:

- Reviewing the written **Study Guides**
- Watching the **Online Math Pre-Assessment Workshop Video**
- The **Math Pre-Assessment Workshop** is for students at their college only and not available for you.

## **<http://www.bridgew.edu/AAC/mathreview.cfm>**

It has a Diagnostic and self-study section...

The following *short online diagnostic tests cover the material on each placement test, and may help you to identify which subjects you should review to be prepared.*

### **Practice Tests**

#### **[Elementary Algebra Show Topics](#)**

Real number arithmetic  
The order of operations  
Simplifying sums and differences  
Simplifying products and quotients  
Simplifying powers and roots  
Simplifying mixed arithmetic  
Factoring quadratic trinomials  
Solving linear equations  
Solving quadratic equations

#### **College Level Math Test** Simplifying rational expressions

Advanced factoring techniques  
Solving systems of simultaneous equations  
Graphs and coordinate geometry  
Conic sections  
Exponential and logarithmic expressions  
Solving exponential and logarithmic equations  
Trigonometry and solving triangles  
Simplifying trigonometric expressions  
Solving trigonometric equations  
Applied algebra topics

**<http://www.khanacademy.org/> *Note: This is a teaching web-site...so when you do not understand a concept, you can go to this website to find out how to do it! It is **not for preparing for ACCUPLACER, but for learning HOW to do the topic (i.e Math, Reading, Sentence Structure AND many other subjects.*** The**

KhanAcademy is a self-paced learning community ...and those who want to learn and are not quite there...if they really want to increase their skills without a traditional classroom, they can learn here and build his/her skills at his own pace.... No traditional teacher....and self-motivated students who really want to know the material and did not score into the level he/she desired...then he/she can work at his/her own pace to learn.

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## THE FIVE-PARAGRAPH ESSAY

A classic format for compositions is the five-paragraph essay. It is not the only format for writing an essay, of course, but it is the model used for assessment on the ACCUPLACER placement test. Below you will find some useful tips on the structure of the five-paragraph essay and a sample essay.

### Structure

#### Introduction:

##### Introductory Paragraph

The introductory paragraph is the first paragraph of your essay. It introduces the main idea of your essay. A good opening paragraph captures the interest of your reader and tells why your topic is important. The introductory paragraph needs to include a thesis statement. The thesis statement is the main idea of the essay stated in a single sentence. You must limit your entire essay to the topic you have introduced in your thesis statement. The introductory paragraph should also provide some background information about your topic. You can use interesting facts, quotations, or definitions of important terms you will use later in the essay. The last sentence of this paragraph must also contain a transitional “hook” which moves the reader to the first paragraph of the body of the paper.

##### **Example:**

Hockey has been a part of life in Canada for over 120 years. It has evolved into an extremely popular sport watched and played by millions of Canadians. **The game has gone through several changes since hockey was first played in Canada.**  
(thesis statement)

#### Body:

Supporting paragraphs make up the main body of your essay. They also develop the main idea. The supporting paragraphs list the points that develop the main idea of your essay. You should place each supporting point in its own paragraph, and develop each supporting point with facts, details, and examples. To connect your supporting paragraphs, you should use special transition words. Transition words link your paragraphs together and make your essay easier to read. Use them at the beginning and end of your paragraphs. Like all good paragraphs, each supporting paragraph should have a topic sentence, supporting sentences, and a summary sentence. The following are examples of transition words that can help you to link your paragraphs together:

<b>For listing different points:</b>	<b>For counter examples:</b>
First Second Third	However Even though On the other hand Nevertheless
<b>For additional ideas:</b>	<b>To show cause and effect</b>
Another In addition to Related to Furthermore Also	Therefore Thus As a result of Consequently

##### Body – First Paragraph

The first paragraph of the body should contain the strongest argument, most significant example, cleverest illustration, or an obvious beginning point. The first sentence of this paragraph should include the “reverse hook” which ties in with the transitional hook at the end of the introductory paragraph. The topic for this paragraph should be in the first or second sentence. This topic should relate to the thesis statement in the introductory paragraph. The last sentence in this paragraph should include a transitional hook to tie into the second paragraph of the body.

##### Body – Second Paragraph

The second paragraph of the body should contain the second strongest argument, second most significant example, second cleverest illustration, or an obvious follow up to the first paragraph in the body. The first

sentence of this paragraph should include the reverse hook which ties in with the transitional hook at the end of the first paragraph of the body. The topic for this paragraph should be in the first or second sentence. This topic should relate to the thesis statement in the introductory paragraph. The last sentence in this paragraph should include a transitional hook to tie into the third paragraph of the body.

#### Body – Third Paragraph

The third paragraph of the body should contain the weakest argument, weakest example, weakest illustration, or an obvious follow up to the second paragraph in the body. The first sentence of this paragraph should include the reverse hook which ties in with the transitional hook at the end of the second paragraph. The topic for this paragraph should be in the first or second sentence. This topic should relate to the thesis statement in the introductory paragraph. The last sentence in this paragraph should include a transitional, concluding hook that signals the reader that this is the final, major point being made in the paper. This hook also leads into the last or concluding paragraph.

### Conclusion:

#### Concluding Paragraph

The summary paragraph comes at the end of your essay, after you have finished developing your ideas. It summarizes or restates the main idea of the essay. You want to leave the reader with a sense that your essay is complete. This paragraph should include the following:

1. an allusion to the pattern used in the introductory paragraph.
2. a restatement of the thesis statement, using some of the original language or language
3. that “echoes” the original language. (The restatement, however, must not be a duplicate of your thesis statement.)
4. a summary of the three main points from the body of the paper.
5. a final statement that gives the reader signals that the discussion has come to an end.

#### Example:

Overall, the changes that occurred in hockey have helped to improve the game. Hockey is faster and more exciting as a result of changes in the past 120 years. For these reasons, modern hockey is a better game than hockey in the 1890s.

### Five Paragraph Essay Sample

The Hazards of Moviegoing

By John Langon – From College Writing Skills with Reading

I am a movie fanatic. When friends want to know what picture won the Oscar in 1980 or who played the police chief in Jaws, they ask me. My friends, though, have stopped asking me if I want to go out to the movies. **The problems in getting to the theater, the theater itself, and the behavior of some patrons are all reasons why I often wait for a movie to show up on TV.**

**Introductory paragraph**  
← (Thesis statement)

<p>First of all, just getting to the theater presents difficulties. Leaving a home equipped with a TV and a video recorder isn't an attractive idea on a humid, cold, or rainy night. Even if the weather cooperates, there is still a thirty minute drive to the theater down a congested highway, followed by the hassle of looking for a parking space. And then there are the lines. After hooking yourself to the end of a human chain, you worry about whether there will be enough tickets, whether you will get seats together, and whether many people will sneak into the line ahead of you.</p>	<p><b>First supporting paragraph</b></p>
<p>Once you have made it to the box office and gotten your tickets, you are confronted with the problems of the theater itself. If you are in one of the run-down, older theaters, you must adjust to the musty smell of seldom-cleaned carpets. Escaped springs lurk in the faded plush or cracked leather seats, and half the seats you sit in seem loose or tilted so that you sit at a strange angle. The newer, twin and quad theaters offer their own problems. Sitting in an area only one-quarter the size of a regular theater, moviegoers often have to put up with the sound of the movie next door. This is especially jarring when the other movie involves racing cars or a karate war, and you are trying to enjoy a quiet love story. And whether the theater is old or new, it will have floors that seem to be coated with rubber cement. By the end of a movie, shoes almost have to be pried off the floor because they have become sealed to a deadly compound of spilled soda, hardening bubble gum, and crushed Ju-Jubes.</p>	<p><b>Second supporting paragraph</b></p>
<p>Some of the patrons are even more of a problem than the theater itself. Little kids race up and down the aisles, usually in giggling packs. Teenagers try to impress their friends by talking back to the screen, whistling, and making what they consider to be hilarious noises. Adults act as if they were at home in their own living rooms and comment loudly on the ages of the stars or why movies aren't as good anymore. And people of all ages crinkle candy wrappers, stick gum on their seats, and drop popcorn tubs or cups of crushed ice and soda on the floor. They also cough and burp, squirm endlessly in their seats, file out for repeated trips to the rest rooms or concession stand, and elbow you out of the armrest on either side of your seat.</p>	<p><b>Third supporting paragraph</b></p>
<p>After arriving home from the movies one night, I decided that I was not going to be a moviegoer anymore. I was tired of the problems involved in getting to the movies and dealing with the theater itself and some of the patrons. The next day, I arranged to have cable TV service installed in my home. I may now see movies a bit later than other people, but I'll be more relaxed watching box office hits in the comfort of my own living room.</p>	<p><b>Concluding paragraph</b></p>

Here are two examples of how the essay topics are posed.

**Children should always have siblings; therefore children with siblings are better adjusted to getting along with others in relationships.**

Explain the topic and either agree or disagree with the statement, offering support to the argument.

**Alternative energy such as natural gas, wind energy or solar energy cost more than the value they give to society, therefore society should discontinue funding the alternative energy sources.**

Explain the topic and either agree or disagree with the statement, offering support to the argument.