

Wright College
Writing & Reading Placement Test Workshop
AGENDA

During this workshop, we will review the following items:

A. Placement Test Procedures: We want you to understand the placement test procedures, and we want to emphasize the importance of these tests, as they will determine the courses you take over the next few semesters.

B. Time- Management: Additionally, we want to introduce you to some strategies for time-management, so that you can appropriately plan, write, proofread and edit your essay. You will have 90 minutes in which to write your essay. We recommend:

- Reading, Underlining and Taking Notes: about 20 minutes
- Outlining, Planning and Pre-writing: about 10 – 15 minutes
- Writing Your Essay: about 45-55 minutes
- Proofreading and Editing: about 10-15 minutes

C. Materials to Help You Prepare: To help you prepare, we have put together a 20-page document called “Preparing for the Writing Placement Test.” By the end of this workshop, you should be familiar with how to use this document to help you study and prepare for your exam.

D. Sample Test Questions: We will look at a sample test question together and share possible responses for an essay. You can use this sample test question to practice at home. There is another sample test question and a graded student response in the study booklet as well.

E. Writing Test Criteria: Your writing placement test will be evaluated according to the criteria below. You should know what these terms mean, and you should have a better sense of how to apply them in your writing. Most importantly, we want you to understand how these components correspond to successful, academic essay writing. These are the major components we will consider when holistically evaluating your writing placement test:

- Critical Response
- Development
- Structure and Organization
- Sentence and Word Choice
- Grammar, Usage and Mechanics

F. Compass Reading Test: Finally, while this workshop will focus more on the writing portion of the placement test, we will briefly discuss the COMPASS Reading Placement Test.

- **Common Types of Questions:**
 - Main Idea (the overall point of a passage or a specific paragraph)
 - Main Purpose (what the author is trying to accomplish: to inform, to persuade, to entertain)
 - Fact or detail (finding specific information stated in a passage)
 - Inference (making your own conclusion based on what you have read)
 - Vocabulary in Context (the meaning of a word as it is used in a passage)
- **Websites for Practice:** Here are some websites that you can use to help prepare for your Compass Reading Test. Some of these websites include sample questions.

<https://web.gsc.edu/fs/mhorton/LSEnglish/readingpractice/test3/reading3.html>

www.testpreppractice.net/COMPASS/Reading-Comprehension-COMPASS-Practice-Tests.aspx

www.compass-test-practice.com/compass-reading-sample.htm

www.compassststquestions.com/COMPASSpracticetest.pdf

www1.cuny.edu/readingtutorial/guide.html

