ACT Essay Writing

**Task 1-Choose your essay topic**

**A)** Most schools have established honor codes or other rules to prevent students from cheating on exams and other school assignments. Many students admit to cheating, arguing that the practice has become so common — and is so rarely penalized — that it is the only way to survive in today’s competitive academic world. Educators, however, feel that such behaviors only hurt the students, and that cheating in school is just the first step to more academic dishonesty, professional misconduct, and unethical business practices in the future. In your view, should high schools become more tolerant of cheating?

*Source: The Princeton Review’s Cracking the ACT, 2005*

**B)** Schools in some states have changed their school calendars so that they are now year-round schools. Advocates of year-round schooling argue that the traditional summer break is a waste of students’ time that could otherwise be spent learning. Opponents charge that today’s students are already overburdened with the stresses of school, and need the summer to get a much needed break. In your view, should the traditional three-month summer vacation from school be maintained?

*Source: The Princeton Review’s Cracking the ACT, 2005*

**C)** Some high schools in the United States have considered creating separate classrooms for male and female students in subjects such as mathematics and science. Some educators think separate classes will be beneficial because students will be less distracted from learning. Other educators think having separate classes for females and males will not be beneficial because it will seem to support stereotypes about differences in ability between males and females. In your opinion, should high schools create separate classes for male and female students?

*Source: The Real ACT Prep Guide, 2005*

Task 2-Create your brainstorm PRIOR to writing & show teacher (located on back) 10pts

*If you create your brainstorm after your essay you will receive -10pts*

Task 3-Create your rough draft in a word document

* 12 pt. font in Calibri or Times New Roman
* Double spaced
* Name, date, hour
* Original title with essay letter
  + Ex: Separate, but Equal (C)
* Limit “I believe”, “I think”, “I feel”
  + Ex: “I think the Detroit Tigers are the best baseball team in the major leagues.” WEAK
  + Ex: “The Detroit Tigers are the best baseball team in the major leagues.” STRONG
* NEVER USE “YOU” (unless it is part of a quote)
  + This paper is NOT a conversation between yourself and the reader!
* Watch grammar, mechanics, and spelling
* You will be graded using the six point ACT Rubric
  + See [www.mccarthyenglish.weebly.com](http://www.mccarthyenglish.weebly.com) for rubric

Task 4-Highlight/Color Code

* Thesis statement-YELLOW highlight
* Counterargument-GREEN highlight

Task 5-Submit your paper to Turnitin.com by 11:59 on Thursday, 1/30/14 30pts