

# GRE エッセー High Score テンプレート

(Issue & Argument)

まず <http://www.ets.org/Media/Tests/GRE/pdf/awintro.pdf>

で ETS が無料公開している、GRE ライティングセクションに関する内容を把握しましょう。

**先に進む前に必ず読んでください。**

(「GRE エッセー High Score テンプレート」では GRE ライティングセクションに関する基本事項や注意点、点数に関する説明などは記載していません。)

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## テンプレートを用いることのメリット

エッセーの最大得点は6点満点です。しかし、

- ・ エッセーが短くなればなるほど、
- ・ 文法エラーやスペルミスが多くなればなるほど、
- ・ Native の文章ではないという色が強ければ強いほど、
- ・ 難易度の高い表現が少なければ少ないほど、
- ・ エッセー全体の流れが悪ければ悪いほど、

点数はどんどん減点されていきます。

テスト本番で出題されるトピックによって、エッセー全体の構成、パラグラフ数、各パラグラフの順序、使う文章の体系などを全部その場で決めていたら、かなりの時間がそれだけでロスされます。そういった事を考える時間が増えるということは、書く時間や、書き終えた後見直す時間が減るということです。つまりエッセーが短くなり、文法エラーやスペルミスを見つけて直すことも減ります → 減点の対象。ここでテンプレートが頭に入っていれば、本論以外の部分で時間を使うことはなくなり、比較的長いエッセーが書けるうえ、エラーの修復率も格段に上がります。

また、Native ではない日本人が書く英文というのは、いくら注意を払って書いても、やはりどこか Awkward で、「あ、この文章は Non-Native が書いた文章だ」とわかってしまうものです。日本へきている海外留学生の書く日本語を見ても、そういった Non-Native 色が分かるのと同じです。

最初から全て自分が考えた文章を書けば、エッセー全体を通して、Non-native 色の強いエッセーになってしまいます → 減点の対象。しかし Native 作成のテンプレート及び「スコア6文章データベース」の中の表現をそのまま使えば、Non-native 色の強い文章は極力なくなります。テンプレートに沿って自分で入れ込む文章に少し Non-native 色があったとしても、それがエッセー全体に占める割合は、全部自分で書いた時のものと比べれば、比べ物にならないほど低くなります。

難易度の高い単語、表現をエッセーに使うということに関してもテンプレートを使うメリットは多大です。自分で使い方も分からない Big Word を使うと、殆どの場合おかしな文章になります。また、どういう単語や表現法がエッセーを知的に見せるのかというのも、日本人では正直分かりません。無難に簡単な表現のみで構成するというのが一般的です → 減点の対象。しかしテンプレートを使えば、既に Native が効果的な Big Word や表現を適度に盛り込んでいるわけですから、そのことを心配する必要はなくなります。

全てのテンプレートは、エッセーで最も重要とされる Coherence を重視した形で構成されているので、これについても何もしないで大丈夫です。

用意されたテンプレートを使って、何度も練習してみてください。

ここが大事です。特に Issue のエッセーは、テンプレートがあるといっても、問題によって自分の主張をサポートする具体的な例は自分で考えなければなりません。前述の通り、Coherence のある流れは既に組み込まれているので、それに入れ込んでいく「例」を瞬時に頭に思い浮かべることが出来るよう、練習が必要です。練習を殆どしないでよい点が取れるかというとなんなわけはありません。折角強力なテンプレートを手に入れたわけです。十分に活用しましょう。

練習する中で、全体の構成とテンプレートの固定部分は覚えるようにしましょう。固定部分が分かっていたら本番では、本当に楽になります。

もちろんテンプレートですから、本番の問題によって、更にこういった一文を入れたほうが効果的、この一文はなくてもいい、という状況は十分ありえます。そういった枝葉の部分に関しては、柔軟に修飾しても構いません。

また、「スコア6文章データベース」の文章をうまく挿入することで、自分固有のテンプレートを構築しても構いません。むしろ幾らかは、こうしたオリジナリティーは必要となります。

## Issue

エッセー1枚目は「Issue」と称される30分間で書くエッセーです。

このIssueでは、まず1行から2行程度の問題提起及びその問題に対する一見解が述べられています。この見解に対し、賛成、反対の立場を取り、その説明を書いていきます。

<http://www.ets.org/Media/Tests/GRE/pdf/awintro.pdf>

### 高得点の取り方:

1. 制限時間内に500-700文字程度は書く
2. 単一の文体ではなく、様々な文体を使う
3. 難度の高い単語、熟語を数回使う
4. 例を挙げて説明する（最低一つ、可能なら2つ）
5. 全面肯定・否定ではなく、反対意見の正当性の一部は認める
6. スペルミスは極力少なく
7. 流れ(Coherence)のあるエッセーにする

Issueのトピックは非常に多岐にわたるため、Argumentとは異なり、万能なテンプレートの作成は非常に困難なのは確かです。ただIssueエッセーに書き方は次の3つのアプローチに大別されます。

Type A: アイデアAとアイデアBがあり、両方のメリットを認めつつも一方を指示する

Type B: アイデアAとアイデアBがあり、その一方が他方より望ましいと主張する

Type C: 提起された主張に対し、賛成又は反対の立場を取り、理由を述べる

全てのタイプのテンプレートを用意してありますが、覚えやすさや好み等は違うと思います。3種類すべてを覚えるより、自分にじっくり来るアプローチを選んで、それをマスターする方が良いでしょう。

### テンプレートの見方

**青字**: -----問題で与えられた題材

**黒字**: -----テンプレート固定部分

[**黒字斜体**]: --与えられた題材、既に述べられた文をパラフレーズする部分

[**薄字**] -----問題によって自分で書き込む部分

実際に自分で考えなければならないのは[薄字]の部分です。

### The concept of cooperation rather than competition prepares young people for leadership

[Education], [especially what must be taught and how], is of vital concern to society. Some visionaries, including the speaker, speak of a world in which [cooperation rather competition leads to more prosperous production of the young with strong leadership]. I agree with the speaker that [young people are well prepared for leadership within a framework of cooperation]. However, I am not deaf to the merits of [competition]. It is erroneous to conclude that [a sense of competition is worthless], and I, therefore, insist that concepts of [both cooperation and competition must be weighed appropriately].

To begin with, one reason for my fundamental agreement with the speaker is as follows: in order [for the young to acquire a sense of leadership, the notion of cooperation must be made clear]. Simply put, [leadership exists among people in an organization where the members share common ultimate goals and work cooperatively for the achievement of these goals]. Although examples can be presented in a plethora of ways, two that aptly illustrate this point involve the areas of [business and politics].

Consider first a case of [leadership in a field of business]. [A company is established in an effort to make profit, and it is usually composed of members who have shared objectives. Especially for small start-up companies, cooperation rather than competition is required to fight against competitors]. Much the same kind of statement can be made in the case of [politics]. [Each member of a certain political sect is united because they share the same fundamental policy toward politics. In order to refute or sometimes conquer other parties, they must unite and cooperate rather than rail against each other]. It is clear as shown by these two examples that [cooperation is important].

I believe, as stated above, that [teaching a sense of cooperation] is the very foundation upon which [the young effectively acquire a sense of leadership]. However, I insist that one must embrace the principle that [a combination of cooperation and competition is required for the enrichment of leadership in the young]. It is important that each individual learns the fact that [both cooperation and competition constitute our form of society,] and bereft of [one of the two, no full-fledged leadership] can be fostered, let alone accomplished.

Why might this be so? The simple answer is this: no longer does it make sense to [think of the notions of cooperation and competition as separate entities], for they coexist in society, inextricably bound with each other. If one were to return to the [business] example discussed above, a rationale of my assertion becomes clearer.

[Any company, whether it is a gigantic automobile company or a small manufacturing factory, operate their business in an environment in which a certain degree of competition exists. To sell their own products, they must outmaneuver competitors. Reduction of prices, improvement of qualities, and development of new technologies to name a few; there are various ways by which they can excel in the field of their business, but one thing the leader of the company should keep in mind is that their tactics must be deployed in full consideration of competition among competitors, as well as cooperation that exist within the organization].

In sum, [instilling a concept of cooperation into young people for the purpose of leadership] may look persuasive and true to life. This is true and on this point, I agree with the speaker. However, [focusing solely on the importance of cooperation] is fallacious within the framework of a broader perspective, especially in a pluralistic society where monistic approaches fail to solve a given problem. I do not think [instilling a sense of cooperation is sufficient in helping young people acquire a sense of leadership], nor do I think that [instilling a sense of competition alone is adequate]. [Focusing exclusively on a sense of cooperation maybe sustainable] in the short run, but it is not viable in the long run.

### Politics: Which is more desirable, pursuing ideals or pursuing a reasonable consensus?

Some people contend that *[pursuing ideals is the favorable attitude for politicians]* whereas others argue that *[politics based upon a reasonable consensus is more desirable]*. Admittedly, both ideas are equally important and, in fact, history informs us that these two approaches are mutually exclusive. However, as far as *[politics in today's America]* is concerned, I believe that *[the deployment of politics within the domain of reasonable consensus]* is more crucial.

The chief reason for my assertion lies in the *[evolutionary nature of American politics]*. If we analyze *[how politics in our country has evolved]*, we would have a certain level of agreement that *[today's political system is much more efficient than the quasi-politics that formed at the very beginning of American history]*. In such a society where *[every conceivable thing was unstable and far away from ideals, pursuing ideals is the only viable political approach]*.

However, *[our society has evolved and come to the point where we have achieved what we can, and any deviations from the current political system may cause confusion rather than improvement]*. As a matter of fact, *[can we name anything that is deemed "ideal" yet contrary to a society's consensus?]*. *[I cannot name even one as most of us cannot, and this is rather natural because, through the course of political and economical evolution, ideals held by citizens have already materialized or been achieved, and they have now become the consensus]*. Let us clarify this point by using several examples.

The first example is the *[establishment of independency]*. As is widely known, *[the history of America cannot be fully explained without war]*. Aside from *[whether each war and the tactics deployed in the war were justifiable or not, it is certain that under such unstable circumstances, people wished "it would be ideal if we could live in a society where we do not have to worry about winning independence and being invaded"]*. *However, what were ideal circumstances decades ago have come to be the reality.* We do not have to fight for independence, nor are we obliged to expand national territory. Unless the opinion given by the vast majority of population demands (i.e. a consensus), do we have to start a new war? The answer is "No."

The second example is the *[fight against racism]*. *[Racism has always existed in America, and a certain proportion of people still have some prejudice against a specific race. A consensus tells us that racism is thought to be one of the most inhumane notions, and in fact, politicians have established laws than interdict racism or any kinds of race-based segregation.]*

In the final analysis, I would like to emphasize that examples above are not oversimplifications. These examples simply manifest the fact that *[primitive politics has grown to be modern politics]*. Simply put, *[our form of society is stable as it is, fulfilling a large part of citizens' consensus]*. On the contrary, *[pursuing political ideals would mean that we must change or alter the current political approach]*, to which there is no guarantee that *[what awaits us is the anticipated improvement but not deterioration or confusion]*.

As far as *[politics in today's America]* is concerned, I strongly insist that *[politics based upon a reasonable consensus is more desirable]* for the reasons discussed above. This is not to deny the claim that *[pursuing ideals is meaningless]*. In fact, if *[a consensus points toward]* the necessity for *[radical changes in politics]*, we must *[pursue the ideals]*. Yet, it must be noted that, in this case too, *[the pursuit of ideals]* is embraced when and only when it is in agreement with *[a consensus]*. In our current society where *[politicians represent all citizens]*, it is important that each *[politician]* learn *[the importance of a consensus]*. Bereft of *[the consideration for consensus, no concrete political achievement]* can be established.

**The biggest goal of technological advancement is to enhance people's leisure time.**

The speaker claims that [*the primary goal of technological development is to maximize our leisure time*]. Basically, I agree with the speaker's claim insofar as the term [*technology*] indicates [the application of scientific discovery]. The term "[*technology*]" tends to be interpreted in many different ways such as [technical methods] or [modifications of existing techniques]; therefore, defining the term is of vital importance in order to avoid rambling discussion. Having defined the term, it is now clear that [*the primary purpose of technological advancement is to make our lives more convenient*]. Indeed, If we look around with unprejudiced eyes, we notice that [technologies are solving various problems around us and making our lives convenient].

The chief reason for my agreement with the speaker is as follows: [Unlike achievement-oriented science, technology combines necessary scientific knowledge to make profit]. In other words, [technology is profit-oriented, and to be profitable, the technology must be beneficial to users]. Now if [a device or service created on the basis of a certain new technology does not meet any kind of users' need whatsoever, the device or service will not make profit].

It must be obvious to anyone's eyes that [such technological advancement has no realistic values] and if we analyze the [technological advancement taking place in the real world], we realize that [engineers and involved sectors are advancing technologies in such a way that they solve or alleviate problems we are currently experiencing]. This is the reason why I insist that [*the primary goal of technological advancement is to make our lives efficient and increase our leisure time*]. Let us consider two examples to further verify this assertion.

The first example is [technological advancement in the field of transportation]. [A series of incessant technological advancements have produced a variety of transportation products – the bicycle, the car, the train, the airplane, to name a few. What the advent of these products, the embodiment of technologies, brought us was nothing but efficiency. Needless to say, efficiency in transportation allowed us to have a considerably larger amount of leisure time].

I next turn to the example of [communication technologies]. [The growth of communication technologies (the telephone, the cell phone, the fax machine, email, etc.) has led to their widespread diffusion and application, thus increasing their economic impact. Efficiency in terms of communication was greatly improved due to these new technologies. We are now able to communicate with each other instantly. Thanks to this swift communication, we are able to allocate an extra slot of our time for our leisure activities].

As shown in the two examples above, [*technological advancement does indeed enhance the efficiency of our lives and allows us to have a significantly longer time for leisure activities*]. Additionally, it must be noted that [*these particular technologies have been created in response to a strong demand*]. Had it been the case that [the maximum velocity of an airplane was considerably slower than that of car, who would have used it? In the first place, who would have invested billions of dollars for such absurd undertaking?] [*Technologies are advanced because of a substantial demand, and as a result of their effectiveness, we acquire extra time for leisure activities that would be otherwise impossible to have*].

In summary, I would like to stress that [*technology's value lies chiefly in its practical use*]. [Biotechnology, medical technology, computer technology, nanotechnology, chemical technology, etc., each kind of technology solves a unique problem]. [Without having to worry about, or suffer because of these avoidable problems, we have extra time to do something else]. Thus, [*the efficiency brought about by technological advancement maximizes our leisure time*].

## Issue エッセーのテンプレート使用に関する追加説明

書き始める前から既にこれだけの全体構成があれば、5分から15分程度の時間ロスが防げます。大事なポイントですが、Issue エッセーでは、まず問題を読んで、主張への賛成・反対を決めます。これは左程難しくありません。正しい答えはないわけですから。

Issue のエッセーで難しいのは、「自分の意見をサポートするのに使う例」を考える部分です。よく見れば分かる通り、[薄字]の殆どの部分が、例を挙げているパラグラフです。

この例の部分は、問題の題材、それぞれのとる賛成・反対の立場に、思いつく例によって千差万別なのでテンプレートの固定文にはできません。この部分で、いかに的確な例を挙げられるかが鍵です。

極論、自分の意見がどうのこうのよりも、サポートするための例を挙げやすい立場をとってエッセーを書き始めるというのもひとつの手です。本当はAよりもBの方が正しいと思う場合でも、「そうだけど、具体的にAをサポートできる例が思い浮かばない、一方Bを支持する場合の方が例を幾つでも挙げられる」という場合には、B支持の立場で書く方がより高い得点を期待できるでしょう。

GRE エッセーの目的は自己主張ではありません。高い得点を取って大学院入学への可能性を最大限に高めることです。それを頭に入れておきましょう。

自分で書き込む[薄字]の部分ですが、テンプレートのレベルの英語がスペル、文法ミスなく書ければ満点の6点を取れるでしょう。これよりも単純な文章でも、他の固定部分でBig wordを含んだバリエーションのある文章で構成しているので、スペル・文法ミスが殆どない文章であれば5点程度は取れます。

(「単純な文章」のレベルは偏差値50の高校、短期大学で学ぶレベルの英語とします。一流大学の基準で考える必要はありません。また「6点、5点を取れる…」というのは、もちろん筋道の通るエッセーを書いていることが前提です。的確でない例を持ってこじつけたように見えるものは点数が下がります。)

[薄字]の部分のすべて、自分で文章のバリエーションを増やそうとしなくても、「スコア6 文章データベース」を存分に活用することで、かなりの幅の文章作成に対応できます。

では、次に、Argument エッセーの説明に入ります。



# Argument

エッセー2枚目は「Argument」と称される30分間で書くエッセーです。

このArgumentでは、まず3-5行程度の問題文が与えられます。この問題文ではあるデータや理由をもとにある主張がなされています。Argumentエッセーでは、その主張を導く過程でどんなエラー、弱点や見過ごしがあるのかを指摘していきます。

<http://www.ets.org/Media/Tests/GRE/pdf/awintro.pdf>

## 高得点の取り方:

1. 制限時間内に450-600文字程度は書く
2. 単一な文体ではなく、様々な文体を使う
3. 難度の高い単語、熟語を数回使う
4. 鋭い指摘を3-4個は並べる
5. スペルミスは極力少なく

Issueに比べ、Argumentは例を挙げる必要がないので、かなり多くの部分をテンプレートの固定部分が占めます。Issueに比べると、Argumentはかなりテンプレートが諸に生かされるエッセーだと言えます。高得点を取るためのエッセー全体の構成というのもかなり決まっています。

3種類、語法や使用単語を変えたものを紹介しますので、自分が書きやすいものを一つ選んでそれをマスターして下さい。3つとも覚える必要はありません。Argument template 1はスコア5点をターゲットにしたもの、Argument template 2, 3はスコア6点をターゲットにしたものです。

## テンプレートの見方

**青字**: ----- 問題で与えられた題材

**黒字**: ----- テンプレート固定部分

[**黒字斜体**]: -- 与えられた題材、既に述べられた文をパラフレーズ(言い換え)する部分

[**薄字**] ----- 問題によって自分で書き込む部分

実際に自分で考えなければならないのは[薄字]の部分です。

**Chief sales officer of MM Mall made the following comment: "Last year, the average household income in this city rose sharply. This indicates that families are likely to be spending more time and money on leisure activities. Thus, MM Mall should sell products typically used for leisure activities, such as outdoor equipment, TV, BBQ equipment, luggage, etc."**

At first glance, the author's conclusion that [MM Mall (MMM) should concentrate on products used in leisure activities] seems reasonable. However, a careful examination of the claim reveals that the argument relies on a series of unsubstantiated assumptions, which render it unconvincing as it stands. Before any final conclusions are made, the validity of supporting data used for the justification of the conclusion must be evaluated critically and objectively.

First and foremost, the author provides absolutely no evidence that [the increase in the average household income results in greater expenditure on leisure activities]. Due to this unfair assumption, the argument of the author is greatly weakened. It is entirely possible that [people spend a large proportion of the increased household income for other activities such as education or investment rather than leisure activities]. Without ruling out this possibility, the entire argument remains unpersuasive.

In the second place, in claiming that [the average household income has increased], the author assumes that [the income of those who frequently shop in MMM has increased]. But the author provides no evidence to substantiate this assumption. If [the increase in the average income is attributable to a handful of people, such as executive leaders of growing venture companies, the number of people who come and shop in MMM will not change significantly]. If that is the case, the trend attributable to [a certain category of people] can hardly represent the trend of the entire [city], and it is misleading to assume that trend represents that of the entire [city]. In short, the author cannot justifiably rely on the mere fact that [the average household income rose sharply] to support the claim that [the income of a certain class of people who come and shop in MM has increased greatly].

Thirdly, yet another problem with the argument involves the inadequate statistical data. The statistical data would be more meaningful if [the trend of the average household income was monitored for a sufficiently long period of time]. [A twelve-month period] is not a particularly [long time frame] to confidently conclude that such a trend will continue on into the future. It is possibly that the trend can be accounted for by [a temporal fluctuation in the economy]. Before making a conclusion, a more thorough statistical analysis is required.

If it turns out that [increased income is linked to a greater expenditure on leisure activities], the conclusion made by the [Chief Sales Officer] becomes more persuasive. In the same way, if an additional survey shows that [the increased income does result in a greater number of customers for MMM], the claim would be much more compelling. Much the same argument can be made about the validity of the statistical data.

In sum, any vision, no matter how appealing at first glance, is of little value in the absence of appropriate evidence. Bereft of sufficient supports, the author's argument is unpersuasive as it stands. To bolster the claim, the author must provide unambiguous supporting evidence for the issues pointed out above. One of the things MMM can do is to investigate whether there is [a city where the average household income has risen. If such a city exists, MMM can conduct additional investigations to see if the expenditure on leisure goods has increased significantly].

**Two medical doctors made the following announcement:**

**"A recently study suggests that vitamin K, rich in fish, plays a key role in mental health. Some of our ancestors, who lived near the ocean and consumed a lot of fish, were much less likely to suffer from depression than we are today. Besides, countries like Japan and Taiwan that consume large quantities of fish report lower rates of depression. Given this, it is important for all people in the United States to increase their consumption of fish in order to prevent depression."**

At first glance, the claim that *[all people in the United States must consume greater amount of fish in order to lower rates of depression]* seems reasonable. However this argument not only suffers from logical flaws, but also it bases its conclusion upon several questionable assumptions. Before making the final conclusion, the doctors need to clarify the following points.

In the first place, the doctors referred to the report that *[our ancestors who ate a lot of fish experienced lower rates of depression]*. However, *[environmental disparity between the ancient and modern world]* is not taken into consideration in this argument. *[Individuals in the modern world are experiencing various physical and mental stresses that our ancestors never had to deal with. These modern era-specific nuisances inevitably cause depression]*. It is obvious that there are many factors that *[cause depression, and since the environments of the modern world and ancient world are not identical, the depression-inducing factors may not be the same]*; therefore, it would be misleading to conclude that *[the level of vitamin K consumed alone is responsible for a change in rates of depression]*.

In the second place, the doctors pointed out that *[fewer people suffer from depression in Japan and Taiwan, where a much larger amount of fish is being consumed]*. *[Here, the doctors are trying to address the differences in diets between the United States and Japan/Taiwan],* but basing their claim on this point is not credible due to the fact that *[the consumption level of fish is just one of many differences in diet habits]*. *[The lower rates of depression in Japan and Taiwan]* may be due to other factors such as *[differences in consumption of certain foods (e.g. rice, beef, or seaweed. Or it may well be attributable to the balance of the diet for each country)]*. The author must consider this point in order to verify the credibility of the assumption that *[the consumption of fish does play predominate role in mental health]*.

In the third place, *[the lower rates of depression observed in Japan and Taiwan]* may not be due to the same factors. *[The two regions share many environmental, dietary, and social similarities, but in some aspects, they are quite different. There may be other reasons why people from each country have lower rates of depression. Examples could include climate, religion, foreign relations, and medicine]*. If more thorough investigations indicate that low rates of depression in both countries are attributable to *[a large consumption of vitamin K]*, the doctors' claim may become more persuasive.

Even assuming that *[the cause of the lower rates of depression in Japanese and Taiwanese are the same]*, it is still too hasty to conclude that *[Americans can benefit from mimicking Japanese/Taiwanese dietary habits. They are genetically different. As scientifically proven, genes determine a large part of a human's mental and physical make up]*. It is a possibility that *[Americans are genetically predisposed to depression. If that is the case, a simple alteration of their dietary habits will not necessarily improve the Americans' depression rate]*.

To bolster the claim doctors should provide reliable evidence regarding the points discussed above. One of the things they can do immediately is to investigate *[other European countries whose citizens consume a large amount of fish. By studying people with similar culture and social structure, and with less genetic variability]*, they can minimize the influence of many variables involved in this argument.

**The mayor of the Westwood town made a comment:**

**"Recently, scientists announced that Westwood's landfill would be completely filled within seven years. Since last month, however, town residents have been recycling twice as much aluminum and paper as they did before. In addition, over 95 percent of the respondents to a survey said that they would do more recycling in the future. Because of our residents' strong commitment to recycling, the space in our landfill will last for considerably longer than predicted."**

The mayor's claim that [*the town's landfill should last for considerably longer than predicted*] contains several logical flaws, and lends little credibility. Rather than relying solely on groundless reasoning, the mayor needs to consider the following points before making a final conclusion.

First and foremost, the whole reasoning of the mayor is based upon an assumption that [the population of the town of Westwood will remain stable, and the number of people participating recycling] will not change much over time. Let us think about a situation where [the population of the town is increasing each year by 1.2 fold]. Despite the fact that [many residents are trying to minimize the amount of garbage disposed of, the increase in population will obviously lead to an increase in garbage being disposed of]. Situations like this would weaken the validity of the mayor's claim, and in order to verify the claim, detailed investigation on this point must be addressed.

Second, although the mayor mentioned that [*town residents have been recycling twice as much aluminum and paper*], [he or she did not touch upon the disposal of other types of garbage such as other metal, plastics, kitchen garbage, and so on]. The mayor must be aware of the fact that [aluminum is just one of the metals that are used in daily life]. [Aluminum might be an easy material to recycle because of its chemical properties and that may be why its recycling rate is high. The same may not be true in the case of other often used metals such as silver, copper, and steel, whose chemical properties are quite different from those of aluminum]. It is true that [the amount of paper disposed of is huge]. However, [the amount of other materials such as rubber and plastics is also comparably large]. If further investigation of [*garbage disposal showed that such other materials are also being recycled as much as aluminum and paper*], then, the mayor's claim would become more convincing.

Third, the mayor insisted that [*95 percent of respondents demonstrated a strong commitment to recycling*]. [If most residents of the town of Westwood have responded to the survey, 95 percent of the entire population is a considerable number]. However, there is a possibility that [only a small fraction of the population - those who really care about recycling- had responded to the survey]. If that is the case, [the opinion of a small group of the town's population won't represent the consensus opinion of the entire town. It is not acceptable to assume a trend based on the response of a handful of people and treat that propensity as a representation of the entire population]. If these statistics were still to be used as supporting data, the mayor would have to ensure that [*the survey results represent the voice of a significant proportion of the entire population*].

Fourth, the mayor assumes that [*the amount of materials recycled will increase partly because people have been recycling a larger amount of aluminum and paper since last month*]. Whether this trend is the indication of [the residents' true commitment to recycling or simply a temporary trend] is not clear. At least, at this point, it is too soon to conclude that [*this trend is due to an ongoing commitment by the residents*].

As discussed above, the mayor's claim is based on several assumptions that are not sufficiently supported. Before arriving at the final conclusion, the mayor should acknowledge that there are many factors that are involved in this story, and undertake additional investigation to clarify the uncertainties pointed out above.

## Argument エッセーのテンプレート使用に関する追加説明

これだけの黒字固定部分があれば、30分のうちのかかなりの時間をロスしないですみます。

Issueのエッセーでのポイントは、「どういった点で主張が正統性に欠けるのか」という指摘理由を幾つか瞬時に挙げられるかどうかです。

全ての題材は、明らかに弱い前提や矛盾点を幾つか盛り込んでいます。これに気づかなければ、いくらテンプレートの固定部分を覚えていても意味がありません。

前述の通り、Argument では固定部分がかかなりの部分を占めるということから、Argument エッセーで必要な力はライティング力よりも、Critical thinking であると言えます。矛盾点や論点の穴を見つける力が大事だということです。

よく見受けられる矛盾点や弱点、論点の穴は以下のようなものです。

- ・ 一地域から得られた情報が、全体論として使えると仮定している
- ・ 全体論が、一地域にも常に当てはまると仮定している
- ・ 時間の概念を考えていない（例：人口の変化を考慮していない、社会傾向の変化の無視）
- ・ AとBを比べるとき、条件が同じだと思っている（例：気候、文化、食事、作法、常識等）
- ・ 特定の現象に対し、その原因が一つしかないと仮定しており、他の可能性を無視している
- ・ この現象の原因はこれだ、と主張しているが、実際その因果関係そのものが論理的に弱い
- ・ 町と町を比べる時に、町の住人の平均年齢、性別の割合、常識等が同じだと仮定している
- ・ 地域と地域を比べる時に、都会、中都市、田舎の区別を全くしていない
- ・ 国と国を比べる時に、習慣ばかりに目を向けて、遺伝、宗教、言語などの考慮をしていない
- ・ アンケート調査などを取った時に、信頼性のある調査方法をとっていない
- ・ アンケート調査などに答えた人の数が少ない、全人口に対する割合が低い
- ・ 短期間の調査結果のみから、将来の長期間の予測をしようとしている
- ・ 新しい手法を導入することで、予期されぬ別の問題が引き起こされる可能性を無視している
- ・ 法律などを変更した場合、望まれた効果がすぐに現れると仮定している
- ・ （例えば記者等の）素人が（最先端医療等の）超専門分野の技術的な事に関し言明している

これらの視点から、問題文を読んで咄嗟に指摘すべき点が4つ程上げられるように練習しましょう。

入れ込む文章は複雑なものでもなくとも、単純な文章で構いません。

（「単純な文章」のレベルは偏差値50の高校、短期大学で学ぶレベルの英語とします。一流大学の基準で考える必要はありません。また「6点、5点を取れる…」というのは、もちろん筋道の通るエッセーを書いていることが前提です。表現が曖昧だったり、スペルミスで読みにくかったりするのは、必然的に点数が下がります。）

## 巻末メッセージ

「短時間でこんなに長いエッセー書けるわけない」という考えは間違っています。

確かにテンプレートに頼らず全てを本番の時間内で考え、構成し、チェックしていたのではこのテンプレートの長さの半分の長さで半分のクオリティーが良い所かもしれません。しかしこのテンプレートが頭に完全に入っていれば、「この表現はおかしくないかな?」「この言い回しは単純すぎるかな?」「この全体構成はアメリカ人が見て納得できるものだろうか?」「難易度の高い **Big word** を使いたいけど的確に使う場所がわからない、自信がない」 こういったことを本番で考える必要は殆どなくなります。

この全ての時間を書く作業に使えるのです。しかも書く作業といっても、その内容の何十パーセントかは固定文です。Argument に関していえば、かなりの部分が固定文又は既存文のパラフレーズです。

繰り返し練習して、テンプレートの流れと固定部分の記憶、またタイピングするスピードアップをしましょう。タイピングに関しては、スピードとともに正確性も必要です。(数個のミスは減点の対象にはなりませんが、繰り返しミスがあれば減点の対象になります)

こうしたテンプレートがなければ、いくら練習しても短期間では殆ど点数アップは望めません。でも、テンプレートがあれば短期間の練習で大幅な点数アップが望めます。

このチャンスを逃すべきではありません。

年単位の長期努力は必要ありません。

短期で構いませんので、集中してマスターしましょう。

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