



Writing Sample

English Placement Appeal
Spring 2012



Testing Sessions will be held in SSC-225A

Arrive 15 minutes early! We cannot admit late arrivals.

Valid parking permits are required at all times. Daily parking permits may be purchased from Campus Safety or dispensers located in the parking lots.

How to make your appointment:

- Call the Matriculation Office at 949-582-4970
- Stop by the Matriculation Office in SSC-225B
- Please have your Student ID number ready when calling.
- Please use any of the methods above if you need to reschedule your appointment.

Instructions

- To qualify for the Writing Sample, you must have previously taken the Matriculation English Assessment in the last year.
- Arrive at the testing room **15 minutes before the start time.**
- Please plan to be present the entire 1.5 hours.
20 minutes for instruction, and 1 hour for the test.

Please bring the following items to your testing session:

- Picture I.D. (i.e. driver's license, high school ID card, passport, etc.)
- Blue or black pen and white-out.
- Your Saddleback student ID number.

Important Information

- No pencils or erasable pens will be allowed.
- No dictionaries or thesauruses will be allowed.
- Results may take **up to 5 business days** so plan your testing early.
- You can only appeal a specific placement one time with this test.

ESL Writing Sample Appeal

Ask Matriculation for more information. Writing Sample tests may be scheduled by phone 949-582-4970 or by coming into the Matriculation Office (SSC 225B).

Please read the back of this sheet for more information regarding the exam. If you have further questions or would like to schedule your appointment, please contact the Matriculation Office at 949-582-4970 or visit www.saddleback.edu/matriculation/

Exam Dates & Times

January

Thurs. 12 9-10:30 AM
Tues. 24 3-4:30 PM

February

Wed. 1 3-4:30 PM
Thurs. 16 10-11:30 AM

March

Thurs. 1 10-11:30 AM
Wed. 21 3-4:30 PM

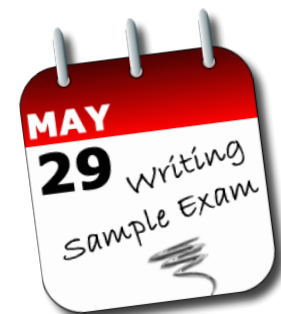
April

Tues. 3 10-11:30 AM
Wed. 18 3-4:30 PM
Thurs. 26 9-10:30 AM

May

Thurs. 3 10-11:30 AM
Wed. 16 1-2:30 PM
Thurs. 24 3-4:30 PM
Tues. 29 9-10:30 AM

*Dates, times, and room locations are subject to change without notice.
Please arrive early.*



Writing Sample Information

The writing sample allows you to appeal the English placement recommendation if you believe the initial placement does not indicate your current English proficiency. The writing test requires you to construct a clear and persuasive response to a specific prompt.

After carefully reading the assigned passage, you will respond to the topic by writing an essay that is controlled by a central idea (your thesis) and specifically developed. You may develop your central idea using specific reference to the passage, other texts, and/or your personal experience.

You will have 60 minutes to read the passage and complete your essay. Plan your essay before you begin writing as you may not have enough time to write a draft and a complete, finished essay. Allow time to proofread your essay and make revisions, being sure to check punctuation and capitalization. You do not need to double space between paragraphs, and you should only use blue or black ink.

Your essay will be evaluated on the basis of your ability to develop your central idea, to express yourself clearly, and to use the conventions of written English. The topic has no "correct" response.

Writing Sample essays will be read by a panel of instructors from the English Department who will score your essay assigning a number ranging from 1 to 6. Matriculation will suggest course placement for essays assigned the following scores:

- 6 (English 1A placement): This paper commands attention because of its insightful development and mature style. It presents a cogent response to the text, elaborating that response with well-chosen examples and persuasive reasoning. The 6 paper shows that its writer can usually choose words aptly, use sophisticated sentences effectively, and observe the conventions of written English.
- 5 (English 1A placement): This paper is clearly competent. It presents a thoughtful response to the text, elaborating that response with well-chosen examples and sensible reasoning. A 5 paper typically has a less fluent and complex style than a 6 but does show that its writer can usually choose words accurately, vary sentences effectively, and observe the conventions of written English.
- 4 (English 1A placement): This paper is satisfactory, sometimes marginally so. It presents an adequate response to the text, elaborating that response with sufficient examples and acceptable reasoning. Just as these examples and this reasoning will ordinarily be less developed than those in 5 papers, so will the 4 paper's style be less effective. Nevertheless, a 4 paper shows that its writer can usually choose words of sufficient precision, control sentences of reasonable variety, and observe the conventions of written English.
- 3 (English 200 placement): This paper is unsatisfactory in one or more of the following ways. It may respond to the text illogically; it may lack coherent structure or elaboration with examples; it may reflect an incomplete understanding of the text or topic. Its prose is usually characterized by at least one of the following: frequently imprecise word choice; little sentence variety, occasional major errors in grammar and usage, or frequent minor errors.
- 2 (English 300 placement): This paper shows serious weaknesses, ordinarily of several kinds. It frequently presents a simplistic, inappropriate, or incoherent response to the text, one that may suggest some significant misunderstanding of the text or the topic. Its prose is usually characterized by at least one of the following: simplistic or inaccurate word choice; monotonous or fragmented sentence structure; many repeated errors in grammar and usage.
- 1 (English 300 placement): This paper suggests severe difficulties in reading and writing conventional English. It may disregard the topic's demands, or it may lack any appropriate pattern of structure or development. It may be inappropriately brief. It often has a pervasive pattern of errors in word choice, sentence structure, grammar, and usage.

**You may obtain the result of your Writing Sample on-line in your MySite
or in person at the Matriculation Office (SSC-225B) with a photo ID.
If you have any questions, you may call the Matriculation office at (949) 582-4970
or visit our website at: www.saddleback.edu/matriculation**