



Writing Sample Fall 2009

Testing sessions will be held in SSC-225A

Times and room locations are subject to change without notice.

You will need:

- To arrive 15 minutes early!
- Your Saddleback student I.D. number
- A picture I.D.
- A blue or black pen, and white-out (liquid paper)
- No pencils or erasable pens will be allowed
- No dictionaries
- Paper will be provided

Plan Early !!!

Results may take 3-5 business days to be scored after the date of the test. Check [MySite](#) for placements. To qualify for the Writing Sample, you must have previously taken the Matriculation English Assessment test in the last year.

Please refer to the English Composition Placement Procedures in the Schedule of Classes or College Catalog.

No one will be admitted after testing begins.

To make an appointment, additional information, and changes call the

Matriculation Office at (949) 582-4970 or visit

www.saddleback.edu/matriculation

★ Valid parking permits are **required** at all times. *Daily parking permits can be purchased.*

Testing Schedule

September

Tue. 1 9-10:30 AM
Thu. 17 3-4:30 PM

October

Fri. 2 10-11:30 AM
Thu. 8 4-5:30 PM
Wed. 14 1-2:30 PM

November

Fri. 6 9-10:30 AM
Wed. 11 1-2:30 PM
Thu. 19 4-5:30 PM

December

Tue. 1 3-4:30 PM
Fri. 4 1-2:30 PM
Wed. 9 2-3:30 PM
Mon. 14 9-10:30 AM



Writing Sample Information

The writing sample allows you to challenge 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. An actual question might appear in the following form:

John, a television commentator, reported that “A desperate disease requires a dangerous remedy.” Write a persuasive essay that provides evidence accepting or rejecting John’s statement. You should carefully select specific examples from your observation, reading, or experience to develop your position.

You are reminded to read the question carefully, even addressing the more subtle implications. Take a consistent position; never try to take both sides of an issue. The best responses will clearly accept or reject ideas, pointing out opposition viewpoint, thus creating a refutation, not simply a series of personal ideas in support of a position.

You will have 60 minutes to read the question and write your response. No required length exists but you should realize that paragraphing, inappropriate tone, and errors in grammar and usage will alter the essay’s effectiveness. Be sure to answer the question directly. Responses that remain too general or appear off topic will receive a lower score. You should neatly write or print the response in black or blue ink. Also, you should indent paragraphs, make one-inch margins, and create an appropriate title.

Matriculation draws readers 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: This essay (English 1A placement) stands out from the rest. Reveals superb use of the language and produces evidence of thoughtful and original thinking.
- 5: This essay (English 1A placement) demonstrates English competence in the writing process and may possess several features of the 6-point essay, but to a lesser degree.
- 4: This essay (English 200 placement) suggests some writing competence, but the response may be general. Such an essay lacks graceful style and contains several errors.
- 3: This essay (English 200 placement) suggests incompetence in the writing process. It begins to answer the question, but never quite does. Several noticeable errors in form, style, and usage inhibit the reading.
- 2: This essay (English 300 placement) reveals severe problems in the composition process. The questions may not be answered. Form errors severely inhibit the reading.
- 1: This essay (English 300 placement) illustrates how the writing process moves out of control. It clearly demonstrates the writer’s incompetence in controlling style, tone, and context.

**You may obtain the result of your Writing Sample on-line at MySite
or in person in the Matriculation office.**

If you have any questions, you may call the Matriculation office at (949) 582-4970.