

Writing Proficiency Exam (winter 2010)

To ensure anonymity, please write your name on the back of the last page.

Steps to Success:

- Write only on one side of the paper.
- Outline carefully before writing, and proofread when done.
- Cross out mistakes neatly and keep the writing as legible as possible.
- Remember the importance of vivid examples.

College-level Writing:

- You are being tested for college-level writing, so be aware of how you present your ideas, particularly if the topic or your views could be considered controversial. Avoid racial, ethnic, or sexist slurs or stereotypes, inflammatory rhetoric, and profanity. Approach the issue formally and demonstrate an awareness of your audience; you are not being judged on your views, but on how well you present them—the writing itself.

Write a 60-minute essay addressing the following prompt:

In his essay, “Students Who Push Burgers,” Walter Minot assesses the way American students prioritize work over their studies—largely so they can afford needless luxuries. Discuss Minot’s assertion in relation to your own experience, drawing on your own work and school schedule or that of other students you know. Explain the extent to which Minot’s assertion that “most students look upon studies as a spare-time activity” fits your own experience and that of other students you know.