

ENGLISH ADVANCED STANDING EXAM – ENGL 1301

The object of the examination for 1301 is to write a well-considered college level essay. In addition, you will need to demonstrate your ability to read and interpret a college-level article. You will have three hours to complete the exam.

Part 1: Reading and Summarizing

You will address the reading requirement by summarizing the article that appears with the exam prompts. Summaries should be done in an essay format and should include the following:

- the main topic of the essay
- the major ideas that develop this topic
- the details that support these ideas
- the author's conclusions

Part 2: College Level Essay

For the second part of the examination, you will write an essay on a topic suggested by the article you have read. When scoring your essay, we will look for all the criteria of a well-developed essay addressed to a university audience. Keep in mind the following components of a well-developed and well-supported essay:

- Your essay should be organized around a clear thesis or claim and should go beyond a rehashing of the article that you read to include your own well-developed and interesting perspective on the subject.
- There should be relevant, specific, fully developed support for that thesis or claim.
- Support for the thesis or claim should include relevant passages from the essay you have just read but should also include facts that you recall from other sources as well as personal anecdotes when applicable.
- Quotations and paraphrases from the article you read should be properly cited; the English Department follows MLA guidelines for documentation.
- We will also look for a clear pattern of organization and smooth transitions.
- Your essay should be relatively free from grammatical and spelling errors.

Essay Evaluation and Scoring Information

Reading, writing, and critical thinking are equally important in first-year English and we will look for evidence in your summary and essay that you are competent in all three areas. Although grammatical competence is important, "correctness" alone will not earn you a passing score. Your essay should demonstrate that you have little or nothing to gain from taking English 1301. Therefore, we will grade it using the same criteria we use for superior exit level essays in the course. Remember that an "A" high school writer is not always an "A" college writer. The criteria are high; prepare carefully.

Your essay will be scored by two readers from the English department who have experience teaching first-year English. If the readers do not agree on whether or not the essay earns a passing score, the essay will be read by a third member of the English department who will make a final determination. Applicants must agree to accept this final determination. The exam cannot be retaken for six months.