

## ENGLISH ADVANCED STANDING EXAM – ENGL 1302

The object of the examination for ENGL 1302 is to demonstrate your expertise in analyzing and writing college level argument. In Part one of the exam you must demonstrate your ability to read and analyze the argument in a college level article.

For the second part of the examination, you will write your own argumentative essay on an issue or topic suggested by the article you have read and analyzed.

You will have three hours to complete the exam.

### Part 1: Rhetorical Analysis

You will address the reading requirement by writing a rhetorical analysis of the article where you clearly interpret the main argument, the type and effectiveness of the support, and the possible appeals to the audience. Summaries should be done in an essay format and should include the following:

- the claim of the argument
- the major ideas that advance and support this claim
- the types of details and evidence that support this claim
- the author’s awareness, focus, and appeals to the audience
- the overall effectiveness of the author's argument strategies

### Part 2: College Level Essay

For the second part of the examination, you will write your own argumentative essay on an issue or topic suggested by the article you have read. When scoring your essay, we will look for all the criteria of a well-developed argumentative 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 argument on the subject you have chosen.
- 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 1302. 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 with 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.