



7 Takeaways For The ACT ESSAY

1. Take a deep breath. You can do this.
2. Take 10. Use the additional time to plan your essay and a unique introduction to the prompt. Be planned and execute your outline.
3. Take a perspective. Who holds this? Why do they? What is an argument for/against it? What if this was accepted- consequence/impact?
4. Take notes. Get out of your head and on paper and create an outline for your paragraphs. You just took a 4 hour exam, you're drained.
5. Take I from perspective. Use "I" to clarify and strengthen relationships between perspectives used in your essay. Your stance is needed here.
6. Take examples to strengthen your stance. No longer is it pro/con, so you need concrete examples from life or studies to strengthen stance.
7. Take charge. Write with authority on the topic and identify a clear perspective. Add what experience/perspective you can to relate.

Note: The assignment and scoring has changed. The new essay is individually scored 1-6 on 4 domains: Ideas and Analysis, Development and Support, Organization, and Language Use. Basically, content and form. This will then be scaled to a 1-36 range score, and students will get three sets of scores: the domain scores, a scaled Writing Test score, and an English Language Arts Score (E, R, W scores averaged).