Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

ACT Writing Test Notes

7.3

Know Your Ingredients

The different grades of 1-6 are based on the quality of your essay in four fundamental categories:

1.

2.

3.

4.

1. Positioning- a solid position requires:

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Choose your position and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

1. Examples- To make an ACT essay really shine, you’ve got to include excellent examples. There are two things that make excellent ACT examples stand out from the crowd:

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Specific Examples

Strong examples discuss specific \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, or measurable changes over time. You must write about things have happened in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Variety of Examples

You are much more likely to impress the raters and write a better essay if you use a broad range of examples from different areas:

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3. Organization- No matter what topic you end up writing about, the organization of your essay should be the same.

No matter what the topic is, how you feel about it, or which examples you choose, you should always follow this \_\_\_\_\_-paragraph structure on your ACT essay.

The top bun-

What does the introduction need to do?

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The meat-

The meat-

The meat-

The bottom bun-

Thesis Statement- The thesis statement is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_sentence of your essay. Identifies \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. A good thesis statement is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

After the thesis statement, the rest of the first paragraph should serve as a kind of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ you will use to support your position on the topic.

The Meat: 3 Example Paragraphs

Each of your 3 example paragraphs should follow this basic format:

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Transitions between meat paragraphs:

Your first meat paragraph dives right its topic sentence, but the second and third meat paragraphs need \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The simplest way to build these transitions is to use words like \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. That means your second meat paragraph should start off with a transitional phrase such as “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”

The Bottom Bun: Conclusion

The conclusion of your essay should accomplish two main goals:

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To accomplish these two goals, your conclusion should contain \_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_ sentences.

The recap:

The recap is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ summary of what you’ve already argued. As in the thesis statement, the recap should be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Expand on your position:

The last \_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_ sentences of the essay should take the argument you just recapped and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it a little further. One of the best ways to push your argument further is to look to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and think about what would happen if the position that you’ve taken in your essay could be applied on a broader scale.

1. Command of Language

Taking a clear position and defending it with solid detailed examples is a strong start to a successful ACT essay. But the ACT-raters also care about the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of your writing, which we call your “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”.

An ACT essay with a clear position and strong examples won’t get a perfect score without the Special Sauce, so pay close attention to these three facts of your essay:

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