

Ten-week GWT Preparation Module

This GWT Preparation Module is strongly recommended for students who are non-native speakers of English who are having difficulty passing the Graduation Writing Test. Although completion of the module is one way to qualify to apply for a waiver of the GWT, the module is specifically designed to help students **pass** the GWT. Students who complete the module will receive assistance in the following areas:

- Analyzing topics and generating ideas.
- Writing a strong thesis.
- Organizing essays.
- Writing under time pressure.
- Reading for main ideas.
- Improving vocabulary and usage.
- Improving grammatical accuracy.

Schedule

The GWT preparation module meets once a week for 10 weeks. If the student passes the GWT in week four, it is unnecessary to complete the module.

Requirements for Completion

- Four timed practice essays plus revisions.
- Eight sets of reading summaries (three half-page summaries plus one personal response per week).
- Ten one-hour group tutoring sessions (one-on-one sessions are also recommended as necessary).
- Four grammar/mechanics exercise sheets assigned by tutor based on writing problems.
- Completed portfolio containing all the work for the module, plus a cover letter addressed to the GWT waiver committee.

If the student doesn't pass the GWT after completing the module, has taken the GWT at least five times, and wishes to apply for a waiver, he or she can fill out the GWT appeal form in the Testing Center and turn in the module portfolio as proof of extra effort to improve writing skills. The module can also be repeated if desired.

Materials

- GWT Student Guide (UWC).
- Selected UWC handouts and exercises.

Session Plans

Week	Activities
Week 1	Introduction to the module. Discuss GWT experiences. Discuss reading summary assignment (“Reading to Improve Your Grammar” in the <i>Student Guide</i>). First set of summaries is due next week.) Hand out practice topic (Essay 1) to write at home in 75 minutes.
Week 2	Share drafts of first essay and discuss ideas for revision and expansion. Turn in first set of reading summaries (Set1). Discuss “Quick Tips for Timed Writing Exams,” and “GWT Scoring Guide.” Students take essays home to revise.
GWT Registration Deadline	
Week 3	Tutor collects first and second drafts of Essay 1 to analyze for grammatical and mechanical problems. Discuss selected reading summaries and responses (Set2). Discuss “Analyzing a Writing Topic.” Assign second practice essay (Essay 2).
Week 4	Assign first grammar exercise. Share drafts of second essay. Discuss “Writing a Strong Thesis,” and “Organizing Your Essay.” Turn in reading summaries (Set 3).
Take the GWT	
Week 5	Debrief on GWT experiences. Tutor collects second draft of Essay 2, and grammar exercise. Collect reading summaries and responses (Set 4). Assign second grammar exercise and new essay (Essay 3).

Week 6	Share essay drafts. Discuss reading summaries and responses (Set 5). Assign third grammar exercise, collect old one. Discuss “Revision and Proofreading.”
Check Your GWT Score	
Week 7	In-class essay (Essay 4). Collect reading summaries (Set 6), grammar exercise, and Essay 3.
Week 8	Return Essay 4 draft with comments. Discuss reading summaries and responses (Set 7). Assign fourth grammar exercise.
Week 9	Students turn in Essay 4. Discuss reading summaries and responses (Set 8). Assign fourth grammar exercise. Assign cover letter for portfolio.
Week 10	Discuss cover letters and assemble final portfolio. Collect fourth grammar exercise. Celebrate completion of module.

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