

# English 95

## Essay #4

**Essay Length: Complete, well-developed first draft**

### Background

The ancient Chinese sage Lao-tzu said: "Softness triumphs over hardness, feebleness over strength. What is more flexible is always superior over that which is immovable. This is the principle of controlling things by going along with them; of mastery through adaptation."

### Topic

Write an essay in which you consider whether these thoughts of Lao-tzu can be applied to how we live our everyday lives. Be sure to use specific examples from your own experience to illustrate to what extent these thoughts do or do not apply to your life.

### Instructions

1. Read the topic a couple of times and note what it requires you to do. Complete all the tasks of the assignment.
2. Take time to plan and organize your essay before you begin to write. (Scratch outlines are often quite helpful.)
3. Be sure to start with a clear main idea. (In other words, make sure you can answer this question: "What is the main point I want my readers to understand?")
4. Make sure that you support or illustrate general points with specific examples and vivid details from your own experience and from the text (when appropriate).
5. Allow yourself enough time after writing to go back over your essay, check for errors or omissions, and make any necessary corrections.