

# English 95

## Essay #5

**Essay Length: 2-3 pages typed (12 point type, double-spaced with one-inch margins)**

### Background

University administrators are interested in using e-mail, computer networks, multi-media technology and the Internet to create on-line courses. In such courses, students read materials, take tests, and communicate with their instructors and fellow students through a personal computer and a network connection. Students do not have to physically attend class, and may, in fact, never meet their instructors or classmates face to face. This type of education is called distance learning. Administrators feel that distance learning will save money, improve education, and allow overcrowded universities to serve more students. However, others feel that students need to have personal interaction with their instructors and classmates. As Bill Arney, a professor of sociology, says that if the goal of education is well-trained workers, then on-line education can fulfill that goal. But, "If you think college is about thinking and reasoning," continues Arney, "that has to be done face-to-face."

### Topic

Write an essay in which you examine whether the trend toward on-line education is good or bad for today's college students.

### Hints

You will need to consider both the advantages and disadvantages that distance learning has brought or can bring to students. In addition, you will need to be clear about overall position on this issue. (In other words, you cannot answer "I don't know" to this question.) As always, you should use well-chosen and detailed examples to illustrate the key points in your essay.

### 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.