

WPE Practice Topic:  
Are Public Libraries Important?

You will have 90 minutes to write on the essay topic that follows. Please read the directions below before you begin to write.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Read the topic a couple of times and note what it requires you to do. Complete all the tasks of the assignment.
2. You have 90 minutes to write on the essay topic. Take time to plan and organize your essay before you begin to write. (Scratch outlines are often quite helpful.)
3. Make sure that you support or illustrate general points with specific evidence and concrete examples.
4. Allow yourself enough time after writing to review your essay, check for errors and omissions, and make the necessary corrections.
5. The essay topic is designed to give you an opportunity to demonstrate your ability to write clearly and effectively. Perfection is not expected, but you should try to produce the best essay possible in the time allotted.

TOPIC:

Because cities and counties do not have enough funds to fully support all their services, budgets for public libraries have been cut dramatically, and in some cases libraries have been closed completely. Some people argue that these cuts are reasonable because police departments, fire departments, and health care are more important than reading. Others believe that a good public library provides educational opportunities for everyone, rich or poor, and that the library is an essential part of an informed democratic community. In a well-organized essay, address the following topic:

In your opinion, (1) what role (or roles) does the public library play in your community, and (2) how important is the library in relation to the other concerns of the community?