

WPE Practice Topic:
Are we equal before the law?

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:

"Law is the protector of the weak." - Frederick Schiller

It has been said that "justice is blind" - that the law treats everyone as equal, whether rich or poor, black or white, young or old. If that is true, the weak can certainly see the law as their protector. However, some people maintain that the law, as it is practiced in the United States, is actually the tool of the rich and powerful.

In your opinion, is the American legal system the protector of the weak, or is it a tool of the rich, used to oppress and manipulate the poor? In a well-organized essay, argue for or against Schiller's statement, using examples from the media and from your own experience to support your point of view.