

WPE Practice Topic:
The Road Not Taken

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:

Robert Frost wrote a famous poem called "The Road Not Taken" about those times in our lives when we have to make a choice to go in one direction, and leave other possibilities behind. Most of us have made this type of choice--to go to college or find a job, to become a teacher instead of a musician, to get married or break off a relationship.

In a well-organized essay, (1) discuss a choice you have made that influenced the direction of your life. Tell about the situation you were dealing with in detail. (2) Explain the reasons you had for making the choice you did, and (3) discuss what your life may have been like if you had made a different choice.