Standardized Tests → Writing the Essay
Level: High School

Standardized tests often ask students to write an essay. The test will give a writing prompt—a subject to think and write about. Use your experiences, opinions, and imagination to help you know what to write. Follow these steps to write the best essay you can in the time provided:

- **Organize** your thoughts by sketching a quick outline.
- Balance **abstract language** (general ideas) and **concrete language** (specific examples).
- Present **clear, logical arguments**.
- **Allow yourself time to reread** your work and **correct** usage, grammar and spelling errors.

Use the writing prompt below to plan and write a five paragraph essay.

Benjamin Franklin states, “Experience keeps a dear school, yet fools will learn in no other.” While Leonardo da Vinci cautions, “Avoid the precepts of those thinkers whose reasoning is not cautioned by experience."

Is experience a better teacher than instruction? Plan your response and then write an essay.

Use the space below for planning your essay.