Preparing for the Admissions Accounting Writing Assessment

A writing assessment score demonstrating minimal writing competency is required for admission to the Accounting major. The Accounting department includes a writing program as part of its curriculum. The purpose of the writing program is to enable students to position themselves competitively for internships and meet the expectations of future employers with respect to written communication skills.

Read

Regularly read general business press publications such as the Wall Street Journal and The New York Times to familiarize yourself with general business language and topics.

Pick up articles from the Frank Center that were previously used in accounting assessments.

Question and Analyze

As you read these articles practice questioning and analyzing what you read. Identify a particular issue in an article and examine its implications. Ask yourself questions such as:

- Does the article consider all the implications of the issue raised? Is the article omitting facts or implications? Are there unexamined considerations or effects?
- What is the importance of this topic?
- Are there other ways to see this issue? What are they?
- Do I have a perspective on this subject different from the author’s point of view? If so, can I provide a position on the topic and defend that position?

Do not merely agree with the article nor merely restate points made in the article.

It is acceptable to use original ideas and reasons without having outside sources to support your claim. Use your own thinking to support your claim.

Practice writing essays

Write practice essays based on these articles. Include:

- a summary of the article (one paragraph is sufficient, do not write more summary than analysis), and
- an analysis of a particular issue in the article that explores these omissions, implications, considerations, effects, or the importance of or other ways to see the topic.
  - start the analysis by writing an original claim/thesis statement that is clear, specific, and includes the reasons for the significance of the claim
  - place the thesis statement at the end of the summary or as the first sentence of the first analysis paragraph
  - write two or three paragraphs that explore the reasons for or the significance of your claim
  - use topic sentences/claim statements to start each paragraph
follow with a second sentence that fully explains the claim
provide evidence in the next several sentences and explain how the evidence substantiates the claim

Reread and Edit

Reread your essay. Ask yourself whether you stated an original claim or have merely restated an idea or points from the article. Have you made an original claim, but only backed it up with examples already given in the article, or have you used examples and ideas of your own?

Make an appointment in the Frank Communications Center

Bring the article and your practice essay to the Frank Writing Center to see a tutor.