

# What's So Critical About Analytical Writing?

Understanding the value of each GRE® General Test section in holistic admissions.



The GRE® General Test consists of three sections that provide admissions decision makers with valuable evidence of critical thinking skills: Verbal Reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning and Analytical Writing.

## Understanding Analytical Writing

Analytical writing skills are critical for success in almost every graduate discipline. The Analytical Writing assessment consists of two separately timed tasks: **1) take a position on an issue and develop an evidence-based argument supporting that position; 2) evaluate the logical soundness of someone else's argument.** These tasks assess the candidate's ability to:

- ✓ Articulate and support complex ideas with relevant reasons and examples
- ✓ Examine claims and accompanying evidence

- ✓ Construct and evaluate arguments
- ✓ Sustain a well-focused, coherent discussion
- ✓ Control the elements of standard written English



## Gain a Clearer Picture of an Applicant's Potential

Receiving a distinct Analytical Writing score gives you the flexibility to weight the measurement based on your program's mission and enrollment goals — and Analytical Writing scores are frequently the best or second-best predictor of a student's future GPA.\*

In addition, through the ETS® Data Manager, you can view authentic samples of applicants' writing — ones that cannot be coached or edited by others. Combining this data with other applicant information provides a clearer picture of an applicant's potential for graduate program success.

Learn more about the value of using GRE scores within a holistic admissions process at [holisticadmissions.org](https://www.ets.org/holisticadmissions.org).

\*Out of the three sections of the GRE General Test