

Ten Steps to GWT Success

When the proctor says you can start, do the following:

1. Relax. You can do it.
2. Read the topic quickly. Look for a specific instruction about what to do. Ignore questions that are designed to help you think about the topic if they confuse you.
3. Make the topic your own. Write about some aspect of the topic that you know well, or that interests you.
4. Take three to five minutes (no longer) to do some brainstorming, listmaking, clustering, or a scratch outline.
5. Plan to write one draft. There is no time to recopy. Cross out errors. Use circles and arrows to make changes, insertions, re-orderings, etc. Don't use white out.
6. Your introduction should probably have a thesis statement, some context for the issue or problem (Why is this important now?) and some ideas for supporting the thesis. The thesis can be qualified using "although." For example, "Although many people enjoy educational programs on television, I think that programs with lots of car chases, explosions and shootouts are best because they get out your aggressions and reduce stress."
7. You can write a five-paragraph essay, but you don't have to.
8. If you run out of time, try one of these emergency conclusions:
 - a. "Sorry, ran out of time."
 - b. Write "For all of the above reasons," and then restate your thesis.
9. If you have a little extra time, proofread your essay for your most common mistakes.
10. If you don't pass, get a copy of your essay from the Testing Office and make an appointment to see a Writing Center tutor.