

A hand holding a pen is shown writing on a document. The document is overlaid with a grid pattern, suggesting a technical or engineering drawing. The background is a light, neutral color.

The Accuplacer Final Exam

Writing Section

Step 1: Understand what you are to do

- What is your specific topic?
- Which rhetorical pattern are you to use to structure your essay?
- How many paragraphs are you to write? What are they?

Assignment

WritePlacer Sample Topic: Prepare a multiple-paragraph writing sample of about 600 words on the topic below. You should use the time available to plan, write, review, and edit what you have written. Read the assignment carefully before you begin to write.

Passage: *Because she was moving to a smaller house, Jane realized she could not take all of her possessions with her. She would have to sell or give away many of them, some of which she had had since she was a child.*

Assignment: Can it be extremely difficult to give up or lose possessions due to the personal attachment that develops over the years?

Step 1 (cont.)

- What is your specific topic?
Possessions can be extremely difficult to give up or lose due to the personal attachment that develops over the years OR Possessions are not extremely difficult to give up or lose despite the personal attachment that develops over the years
- Which rhetorical pattern are you to use to structure your essay? *persuasive*
- How many paragraphs are you to write? What are they? *5 – introduction, three argument paragraphs, and conclusion*

Assignment

WritePlacer Sample Topic: Prepare a multiple-paragraph writing sample of about 600 words on the topic below. You should use the time available to plan, write, review, and edit what you have written. Read the assignment carefully before you begin to write.

Passage: *Because she was moving to a smaller house, Jane realized she could not take all of her possessions with her. She would have to sell or give away many of them, some of which she had had since she was a child.*

Assignment: Can it be extremely difficult to give up or lose possessions due to the personal attachment that develops over the years?

Step 2: Make educated guesses if necessary

- What word is it similar to that you already know?
- What does the familiar word mean?
- Based on the familiar word, what can you guess that the unfamiliar word means.

Unfamiliar words

WritePlacer Sample Topic: Prepare a multiple-paragraph writing sample of about 600 words on the topic below. You should use the time available to plan, write, review, and edit what you have written. Read the assignment carefully before you begin to write.

Passage: *Because she was moving to a smaller house, Jane realized she could not take all of her **possessions** with her. She would have to sell or give away many of them, some of which she had had since she was a child.*

Assignment: Can it be extremely difficult to give up or lose possessions due to the personal attachment that develops over the years?

Step 2 (cont.)

- What word is it similar to that you already know? *possess*
- What does the familiar word mean? *own*
- Based on the familiar word, what can you guess that the unfamiliar word means. *possessions = things that are owned*

Unfamiliar words

WritePlacer Sample Topic: Prepare a multiple-paragraph writing sample of about 600 words on the topic below. You should use the time available to plan, write, review, and edit what you have written. Read the assignment carefully before you begin to write.

Passage: *Because she was moving to a smaller house, Jane realized she could not take all of her **possessions** with her. She would have to sell or give away many of them, some of which she had had since she was a child.*

Assignment: Can it be extremely difficult to give up or lose possessions due to the personal attachment that develops over the years?

Step 3: The introduction

Write the thesis sentence.

Purpose & focus

Purpose

Focus

This paper argues that possessions can be extremely difficult to give up or lose due to the personal attachment that develops over the years.

Step 3: Feedback to self

Purpose & focus

Purpose – Is the rhetorical pattern I chose the one called for in the writing prompt?

Focus - Is the specific topic the same as what appears in the writing prompt?

This paper argues that possessions can be extremely difficult to give up or lose due to the personal attachment that develops over the years.

Because she was moving to a smaller house, Jane realized she could not take all of her possessions with her. She would have to sell or give away many of them, some of which she had had since she was a child.

Assignment: Can it be extremely difficult to give up or lose possessions due to the personal attachment that develops over the years?

Step 3: Add the opening sentence

A. Place the cursor in front of the thesis sentence.

B. Type an opening sentence that gets the reader's attention.

- Statistic
- Unfamiliar fact
- Startling statement

If you remember this information, add the author's name and date of publication of the article between parentheses.

DO NOT ACCESS THE INTERNET FOR ANY INFORMATION.

→ This paper argues that possessions can be extremely difficult to give up or lose due to the personal attachment that develops over the years.

→ The average person owns two mobiles, which he or she checks 140 times per day (East, 2013). This paper argues that possessions can be extremely difficult to give up or lose due to the personal attachment that develops over the years.

Step 4: Add topic sentences in separate paragraphs

This paper argues that possessions can be extremely difficult to give up or lose due to the personal attachment that develops over the years.

1st reason



First of all, giving up possessions is difficult, for society bases individuals' worth on their possessions.

2nd reason



A second reason why giving up or losing possessions is difficult is because they represent economic stability.

3rd reason



Finally, losing or giving up possessions is hard since they often form a part of one's traditions or culture.

Conclusion



In conclusion, three reasons support the argument that giving up possessions can be very difficult because of personal attachment.

Step 4: Feedback to self

Organization & structure

1. Does the essay now contain an introduction, body paragraphs and conclusion?
2. Is my thesis sentence the last sentence in the introduction?
3. Have I used transitions indicating order to start each body paragraphs and conclusion?

The average person owns two mobiles, which he or she checks 140 times per day (East, 2013). This paper argues that possessions can be extremely difficult to give up or lose due to the personal attachment that develops over the years.

First of all, giving up possessions is difficult, for society bases individuals' worth on their possessions.

A second reason why giving up or losing possessions is difficult is because they represent economic stability.

Finally, losing or giving up possessions is hard since they often form a part of one's traditions or culture.

In conclusion, three reasons support the argument that giving up possessions can be very difficult because of personal attachment.

Step 4: Feedback to self (cont.)

Purpose & focus

1. Is each of the reasons in the topic sentences a valid reason why my thesis sentence is true.
2. Have I expressed the reason clearly and coherently so that my reader will understand what I mean?

The average person owns two mobiles, which he or she checks 140 times per day (East, 2013). This paper argues that possessions can be extremely difficult to give up or lose due to the personal attachment that develops over the years.

First of all, giving up possessions is difficult, for society bases individuals' worth on their possessions.

A second reason why giving up or losing possessions is difficult is because they represent economic stability.

Finally, giving up one's property is painful due to the fact that possessions often form a part of one's personal background.

In conclusion, three reasons support the argument that giving up possessions can be very difficult because of personal attachment.

Step 5: Develop & support each body paragraph topic sentence

- Add major support sentences
- Follow them by minor support (details) sentences
- Use transitions (signal words) conjunctions to show relationships between ideas in sentences

Finally, giving up one's property is painful due to the fact that possessions often form a part of one's personal background. Consequently, giving them up is, in effect, cutting oneself off from his or her traditional and religious background (Jones, 2014). For example, in Islam, a man is obliged to give his new bride a possession, such as a piece of jewelry, before getting married. Most Middle Eastern grooms traditionally present their brides with jewelry fashioned from gold. Hence, giving up any property associated with one's traditional and religious background can be very painful, for it is almost the same as denying one's culture and religion.

Step 5: Feedback to self

Structure & organization

- Have I followed the topic sentence with a major support?
- Have I added minor (details) support?
- Have I used **transitions** and **conjunctions** to show relationships between ideas in sentences?

Finally, giving up one's property is painful due to the fact that possessions often form a part of one's personal background. **Consequently**, giving them up is, in effect, cutting oneself off from his or her traditional and religious background (Jones, 2014). **For example**, in Islam, a man is obliged to give his new bride a possession, such a piece of jewelry, before getting married. Most Middle Eastern grooms traditionally present their brides with jewelry fashioned from gold. **Hence**, giving up any property associated with one's traditional and religious background can be very painful, **for** it is almost the same as denying one's culture and religion.

Step 5: Feedback to self (cont.)

Purpose & focus

1. Is each of the major and minor supports directly related to the topic sentence?
2. Do each of the support sentences help to prove why my thesis sentence is true.
3. Have I expressed myself clearly and coherently so that my reader will understand what I mean?

Finally, giving up one's property is painful due to the fact that possessions often form a part of one's personal background. **Consequently**, giving them up is, in effect, cutting oneself off from his or her traditional and religious background (Jones, 2014). **For example**, in Islam, a man is obliged to give his new bride a possession, such a piece of jewelry, before getting married. Most Middle Eastern grooms traditionally present their brides with jewelry fashioned from gold. **Hence**, giving up any property associated with one's traditional and religious background can be very painful, **for** it is almost the same as denying one's culture and religion.

Step 6: Finish writing the conclusion

1. First sentence –
paraphrase of thesis
sentence
2. Two to four sentences –
summary of main points
3. Concluding sentence –
echo, “quotation,” statistic

In conclusion, three reasons support the argument that giving up possessions can be very difficult because of personal attachment. A major reason is individuals' identities are tied up with what they own. Consequently, when someone loses a possession, it is similar to losing one's identity. Moreover, property loss can be difficult due to the fact that these possessions represent economic stability and often form a part of one's traditions or culture. In short, that mobile someone is clutching in his or her hand is not simply a communication device: it is a part of his or her life.

Step 6: Feedback to self

Structure & organization

- Have I followed the topic sentence with a summary of each of the body paragraphs?
- Have I used transitions and conjunctions to show relationships between ideas in sentences?

In conclusion, three reasons support the argument that giving up possessions can be very difficult because of personal attachment. A major reason is individuals' identities are tied up with what they own. Consequently, when someone loses a possession, it is similar to losing one's identity. Moreover, property loss can be difficult due to the fact that these possessions represent economic stability and often form a part of one's traditions or culture. In short, that mobile someone is clutching in his or her hand is not simply a communication device: it is a part of someone's life.