GRE Analytical Writing: Issue Essay Templates & Frameworks

Unlike the PTE, the GRE evaluates critical thinking rather than simple formulaic template recitation. Use these templates as structural scaffolds, substituting the bracketed info with high-level vocabulary and topic-specific analysis.

Template 1: Balanced Perspective (Concession & Refutation)

Best used when a prompt has merit on both sides but leans slightly one way.

"While the prompt accurately highlights that [Insert Point A], it oversimplifies the broader narrative by ignoring [Insert Counterpoint]. Proponents of the stated stance frequently argue that [Insert Supporting Argument A]. However, this perspective fails to account for instances where [Insert Counter-example]. Ultimately, because [Insert Core Reason], the assertion that [Insert Stance] holds true only under highly specific conditions."

Template 2: Extreme Stance (Total Agreement/Disagreement)

Best used when you want to take an uncompromising position with robust historical or scientific backing.

"The claim that [Insert Prompt Claim] is fundamentally robust/ flawed, as it directly aligns/conflicts with [Insert Primary Domain Area]. A close inspection of [Insert Key Trend/Historical Era] reveals that [Insert Main Supporting Evidence]. While critics might attempt to dismiss this by pointing to [Insert Potential Weakness], this objection is easily neutralized when one considers [Insert Defending Reason]. Consequently, the prompt's position is entirely valid/untenable."

Template 3: Conditional Validity Framework

Best used when the issue depends entirely on the context (e.g., technology, arts, governance).

"Whether [Insert Stance] yields beneficial outcomes is not an absolute certainty, but rather contingent upon [Insert Crucial Factor]. In domains such as [Domain A], the validity of this

assertion becomes starkly evident through [Insert Example A]. Conversely, within the realm of [Domain B], the identical logic falters due to [Insert Example B]. Therefore, any uniform application of the prompt's claim ignores the nuanced reality of these contrasting operational environments."