

What is a College-Ready English Student?

Created by the Writing Team of the
Alliance for College Readiness



Introduction

- ▶ What are the minimum competencies for a college-ready English student?
- ▶ A college-ready English student is sometimes defined differently by high schools than by colleges.

[See Brochure](#)



Presentation Topics

- ▶ Establishment of Minimum Competencies
- ▶ Writing Skills Sampled
 - ▶ Purpose
 - ▶ Organization & Development
 - ▶ Style
 - ▶ Conventions
 - ▶ Errors
- ▶ Placement Scores
- ▶ Prompt & Samples
- ▶ Alliance for College Readiness Writing Team Members



Establishing College English Readiness

- ▶ The Writing Team of the Alliance for College Readiness describes the ECC English Standards for minimum competencies of a high school graduate/ incoming college freshman student as evidenced by a writing sample.
- ▶ The writing sample is an impromptu writing essay of 400-600 words to be administered in the ECC Testing Center.

The Essay's Purpose

- ▶ A clear essay responds to the prompt with an emphasis on persuasion as the writing mode.



Organization & Development

- ▶ The thesis is directly and appropriately stated within the introduction.
- ▶ The essay has multiple paragraphs with a minimum of 3 paragraphs.
- ▶ Each body paragraph begins with a directly stated topic sentence.
- ▶ Each body paragraph is well-developed, consisting of 5-7 detailed, informative sentences.

Organization & Development

- ▶ Each body paragraph:
 - ▶ is developed logically
 - ▶ uses appropriate transitions
 - ▶ is supported by specific examples
 - ▶ ends with a final/concluding sentence (directly connected to the topic sentence)
- ▶ The conclusion re-addresses the thesis, summarizes the main points, and ends with a clear closing statement.

Style

- ▶ Sentence variety occurs through the use of simple, compound, and complex sentences.
- ▶ Style is established through the use of concrete adjectives, appropriate adverbs, prepositional phrases, and purposeful and appropriate vocabulary.

Major Errors

- ▶ No more than 4 major errors are present in the essay. These errors are run-ons, comma splices, fragments, subject-verb agreement, and verb tense agreement errors.
- ▶ Note: Some accommodation for ELL students regarding subject-verb agreement and verb tense agreement may occur.

Conventions

- ▶ Basic conventions provide readability and clarity; therefore, writing with more than 10 errors in basic conventions becomes unacceptable writing. (Each time an error occurs, it counts as one error.)

Basic Conventions

- ▶ The use of a comma in the following situations: an introductory phrase or clause, a coordinating conjunction, a subordinating conjunction, a non-restrictive clause, in a list.
- ▶ Correct spelling, correct homonym use.
- ▶ Proper use of an apostrophe, correct use of a semicolon, proper end punctuation.
- ▶ No missing words or unclear wording.

While a student should be able to meet all of these standards upon completing his/her high school English curriculum, the ECC writing instructor may use discretion if deemed appropriate.



ECC Writing Test Placement Scores

6- Student is advised to apply for the Honors Program or to take the CLEP test. Student may enroll in English 101.

5- Student may enroll in English 101.

4- Student is placed in Developmental English 098.

3 or 2- Student is placed in Developmental English 097.

1- Student is placed in Developmental English 094.

0- No placement decision is made.



Correlation of ACT Rubric to ECC Placement Scoring

	ACT	ECC
College Ready	6-5-4	6-5
Not College Ready	3	4
Not College Ready	2-1	3-2
Not College Ready		1

Explanation of ECC 6

Essay has a thesis and is unified, coherent, and developed with concrete, specific details. It contains a complexity of ideas and demonstrates the student's understanding of sentence form and variety. Student demonstrates the ability to edit for surface errors, spelling, and punctuation. Student may be eligible for honors English or CLEP test.

Explanation of ECC 5

Essay has a thesis and is unified, coherent, and developed with concrete, specific details, with some minor deviations. Essay contains some complexity of ideas and adequate vocabulary. Problems with grammar, mechanics, or spelling do not interfere with reader concentration and understanding. Student may enroll in ENG 101.

Explanation of ECC 4

Essay may have a thesis which responds to the topic, but supporting ideas are not consistently concrete, specific, or adequately developed. The essay may demonstrate basic organizational skills but grammar, mechanics, and spelling errors are sufficient or serious enough to cause some problems with comprehension. Student needs one semester of developmental composition ENG 098 to prepare for ENG 101.

Explanation of ECC 3

Essay has same problems as a “4” but with serious organization or development problems or several types of grammar, mechanics and spelling errors, which will require more than one semester of college remediation. Student needs two semesters of developmental composition (ENG 097 and ENG 098) with recommended tutoring.

Explanation of ECC 2

Essay may have a thesis which responds to the topic, but supporting ideas are undeveloped, repeated, unclear, or incoherent. Essay has recurrent grammatical and syntactical problems. Student needs two semesters of developmental composition (ENG 097 and ENG 098) with recommended tutoring.

Explanation of ECC 1

Essay has same problems as a “2” but writer demonstrates little understanding of sentence boundaries and has consistent problems with syntax. Basic vocabulary and simple ideas predominate. Problems are severe enough to require individualized attention in ENG 094, along with recommended tutoring before attempting ENG 097 and 098.

No Placement Decision

Essay is off the topic or the writing sample is too short to make a judgment. Student must retake the test.

A Sample Test Prompt

Many high school students consider taking a year off between high school and college. Those who believe this is a good idea note that students can earn money by working. Those who oppose this idea believe that students may lose valuable study skills. In your opinion, should students take a year off between high school and college?

In your essay, take a position on the topic. You may choose one of the stances listed above or expand upon a unique stance.



Writing Examples

COLLEGE READY

These students would be placed into English 101 at ECC.

NOT COLLEGE READY

These students would be placed into English 098 at ECC.

Samples 3, 4, and 5 are examples of writing with a score of 4 and, therefore, are not college-ready. These students would be placed into English 098 at ECC. The first essay is a high 098, the second a medium 098, and the last a low 098.

ECC English Writing Team Members

Comprised of faculty and administrators
from Community College District 509
(Elgin Community College and its
surrounding high schools)

ANY QUESTIONS???

Please email questions about this presentation, the Alliance for College Readiness, or its curriculum teams to collegereadiness@elgin.edu

