**ACT PREP WRITE**

**Information Accessibility**

At this moment in time, there is more information more readily available to more people than ever before. Smartphones can instantly provide directions to your destination, when even 10 years ago you had to look up directions before you left and/or bring along a map. Researchers from all over the world are able to pool their knowledge to advance their fields more quickly. Many libraries have broadened their collections to include subscriptions to online/electronic databases as well as printed works. Greater access to information is generally seen as a positive advance, but what are the consequences of making so much knowledge available to so many people? Based upon the ever-increasing amount of information in the world and the ever-broader access to it, it is worth examining the implications and meaning of easy access to information in our lives.

*Read and carefully consider these perspectives. Each suggests a particular way of thinking about the information accessibility.*

**Perspective One**: With increased ease of access to information, we lose the incentive to gain knowledge ourselves. By outsourcing our memories of facts and other information, we are becoming less intelligent.  
**Perspective Two**: Greater access to information allows us to avoid memorizing facts and, instead, use our brains for higher-level thinking. This efficiency leads to a more prosperous and progressive world for everyone.   
**Perspective Three**: The more people who have access to more information, the greater the chances of collaboration and thus further advances in human knowledge. This is good because it pushes us toward new, unimagined possibilities.

Write a unified, coherent essay in which you evaluate multiple perspectives on the increasing accessibility of information.

These multi-perspective topics basically ask:

**"What do you think about the way the world is changing?"**

**…and these three prompts show the following perspectives:**

1. *The world is changing to be* ***worse*** *than it was before. (because...)*
2. *The world is changing to be* ***better*** *than it was before. (because...)*
3. *The world is changing to be* ***more efficient*** *than ever before. (because...)*

So in order to write a good essay, consider the following:

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| **Discuss all three perspectives…** | If you fail to address all three perspectives, it will be very difficult to score well. |
| **But make sure to pick a side of the question as a thesis.** | ACT essay prompts are sometimes multiple perspective questions. Choose one of the perspectives to side with based on which answer seems easier for you to back up with evidence. A thesis that picks a side is by definition simpler, clearer, and requires less thinking than a thesis that says "this is true in these situations, but not in these other situations." |
| **You don't need to use academic examples--but it helps.** | All the sample high-scoring essays on the College Board website use classic academic texts, like To Kill a Mockingbird and 1984, as support. |
| **Choose concrete evidence.** | "Concrete" means based on art (books, movies or plays), history/current events, statistics, or personal experience. No hypotheticals, which means no "if" statements or evidence based on "a CEO of a company" or "a high school student." Be specific—people should have names, even if you have to make them up. |
| Size Does Matter | You know the maxim “quality not quantity?” Well, ETS hasn't heard that one. Their graders like long essays. There are 45 lines to fill–get as close to that as possible. |
| Be organized clearly and logically | Don’t jump back and forth between ideas without transitions or a logical structure. Write clearly and with direction. |
| Write in standard English | A very few grammatical or spelling errors are okay, but the more problems there are, the lower your score. Don’t use slang or abbreviations of words. |

**ACT essay scoring categories:**

Ideas and Analysis  
Development and Support  
Organization  
Language Use and Conventions

SAMPLE ESSAY: SCORE 6

Advances in technology have become so widely accepted in today’s culture that very few people are willing to pause to consider the consequences. People get so excited about what new technologies can offer that they forget to question whether there might be any negative effects. **Without caution and deliberation, replacing the natural with the mechanical would undoubtedly be disasterous.**

The economic implications of the potential mechanical takeover alone should be enough to dissuade anyone from moving too fast. In the event the robots are more widely used in the workplace, humans would surely be replaced. At first, businesses would benefit from the efficiency of robots, but eventually a depressed job market would lead to a population that struggles just to feed themselves and their families, let alone purchase the products these robots make. In the long run, society will suffer if it does not take care to prevent the economic consequences of giving everything over to machines.

**Our careless use of automation has already taken a toll on our culture.** People have been interacting with automation in nearly every aspect of their lives, whether it be shopping, banking, or the use of a telephone. The effect of this is obvious: basic respect for our fellow man is all but absent today because of increased interaction with automation. Why treat a machine with kindness? It suffers no emotional or psychological damage. In a culture saturated with automation, we get used to treating machines rudely, and we begin to treat each other rudely. This of course leads to all sorts of issues, like intolerence and incivility, and in the long run, results in the complete degradation of culture.

**Even in the face of these obstacles, some people argue that the increasing intelligence of today’s machines is a good thing**. After all, machine power can decrease the human work load. Computer processers double in power and ability every year. Computers are projected to reach human intelligence by as soon as 2025. The implications of this shift are unknown, but one thing is for certain. We are moving into this change too fast to anticipate and prevent damage to the human species. We are approaching this change too quickly for any sort of safety net to be built. Because of this, it is important that we as a species slow down our technological development so that we might consider all the implications of a change this big. We must figure out how to handle negative societal and cultural consequences before we embrace total integration of automated, intelligent machines.

Decreasing the speed with which we incorporate mechanical influence is important because of the potential dangers that lurk in blind acceptance. Not only does the preference of the mechanical over the natural interfere with the job market and the economy, but its use also has the potential to seriously degrade our culture as a whole. **In combination with the uncertainty surrounding the increasing intelligence of machines, it is most assuredly better for the human species that technological progress be slowed so that we can, if necessary, prevent additional damage.**

Introductory paragraph has a strong stance about careful technological integration

Verification one examines economic potential using estimations about the suffering of society

Uses 1st person, but very limited.

Check out the counter claim and refutation in this paragraph

Ends with a solid conclusion restating the claims made in the essay and ends with a strong synthesis and restatement

