

WSIP's Tips for Timed Exams

Use your time wisely. Break your time into writing chunks. For example, for a 45-minute exam, try 10 m (Plan), 25 m (Write), and 10 m (Review).

PLAN

Read the prompt. Then read it again. Pay attention to the verbs to help you understand what the reader wants (describe, analyze, summarize, etc.). Write a simple outline to keep you on track.

WRITE

Follow your outline.

Focus on strong topic sentences, solid examples, and clear discussion.

REVIEW

Check for big issues first. Did you answer the prompt?

Then, proofread for fixable errors (spelling, punctuation, sentence clarity).

If you know you're going to have a timed writing exam, practice in advance. Look for sample prompts, set a timer, and write! Practice helps diffuse some of that test anxiety and increase fluidity.

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Writing Skills
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