

LSAT Writing is a mandatory writing sample that students complete on their own time in the days, weeks, or even months following the test. We put together this guide to explain what's expected of you, how it's administered, its general importance, and how to write the most compelling essay possible.LSAT Writing is a 35-minute assignment that requires you to write a persuasive essay in favor of a particular choice among two possible options. We'll explore the specifics of the task, known as a "Decision Prompt," shortly. First, let's discuss some notable aspects of LSAT Writing itself. 1. It is mandatory. Your file is not complete until you have submitted at least one approved writing sample. LSAC is serious about this! You will not receive your LSAT score, nor will your Law School Report (the compilation of your school records, test scores, writing sample, letters of recommendation, essays, etc.) be sent to any law school you've applied to until it's done. You officially have one year from your test date to complete a writing sample. Our advice is to get it over with sooner rather than later. You don't want to drop the ball and miss your application deadlines! Keep in mind that it may take up to a week or more to process your sample and update your file. 2. It only needs to be done once. Candidates only need to have a single writing sample on file, even if it's from a past, paper-based test. Re-takers do not have to complete additional LSAT Writing unless they want to, although there may be compelling reasons to submit additional attempts! Perhaps you'd rather than a handwritten essay. Or maybe you feel after reading this post that you could have done a better job. Schools will receive the 3 most recent writing samples as part of your Law School Report. Just keep in mind that if you already have a writing sample on file and do want to submit another one, you'll have to pay a small fee. 3. It is unscored. Yep, you read that right: the LSAT, the difference between a "great" effort and something inarguably mediocre is more qualitative than quantitative. It comes down primarily to your ability to adhere to a handful of suggestions that I'll outline in detail below.LSAT Writing is sent to every law school to which you apply. Many will skim it, and some will read it carefully. So don't blow it off! The last thing you want an admissions committee that reads your essay to think is that you're not serious about the process. Law school is brutal. It requires a Herculean level of dedication. Imagine what it says to a group debating your intentions and potential if you don't commit yourself to a half-hour writing exercise. The risks of dismissiveness far outweigh the rewards. Plus, according to a few admissions directors we spoke with, they're looking at the quality of your writing chops. It's a skillset central to law school success, after all. In the text that follows, I'm going to dissect LSAT Writing piece by piece, from the General Directions to the specific essay Directions to the details of an actual Prompt. And I'll even give you the perfect template to craft an essay that any board would be pleased to receive. Using the Digital InterfaceYou'll need access to a computer running Windows or Mac OS, not Chrome OS. It has to have a webcam, a microphone, a single connected monitor, and an internet connection. You'll definitely want to run the proctoring software in advance and get some experience via the practice environment on the LSAC site by using the link to "Get Acquainted with LSAT Writing" in your LSAC.org account. That interface offers common word-processing functions, including a spell-check function and the ability to cut, copy, and paste. There are also accessibility features such as a font magnifier, line reader, and speech-to-text compatibility. The proctoring platform will use input from your keyboard, webcam, microphone, and computer screen to ensure you're not getting outside assistance. You'll have a video check-in process where you show a government-issued ID as well as your workspace to the camera. The platform will close any outside messaging or web-browsing applications and your actions will be recorded and reviewed by proctors. General Directions and your actions will be recorded and reviewed by proctors. the 'Begin' button above. Read the prompt and the accompanying directions carefully. Your essay will be submitted automatically when time has elapsed, you may select "Submit" and follow the directions that appear on your screen." Essay-specific DirectionsOddly, there is a second set of directions immediately before the essay topic screen. These are more specific to the nature of the essay itself. Be sure to know these directions appear on the screen, so re-reading them wastes precious seconds!"You have the time displayed above in which to plan and write an essay in response to a prompt on the next screen. Read the prompt carefully. You will probably find it best to spend a few minutes considering the prompt and organizing your thoughts before you begin writing. In your essay, be sure to develop your ideas fully, leaving time, if possible, to review what you have written. Do not write on a topic other than the one specified.No special knowledge is required or expected for this writing exercise. The exercise is intended to display your facility with reasoning, organization, language usage, and writing mechanics. How well you write is more important than how much you write is more important than how much you write is more important. writing your essay before time has elapsed, you may select "Submit" and follow the directions that appear on your screen."You Must Make a ChoiceAs we will see, the prompt presents two choices, either of which can be supported on the basis of the information given. the specified criteria and provided facts. There is no "right" or "wrong" choice: a reasonable argument can be made for both. So you've simply got an either/or decision you feel you can better defend. There's information provided in support of both options and yet you have to choose one and stick to it. This is critical. You must take a side. There's no clear winner. Both options have advantages, but you can't hedge here. You need to choose one and go all-in in your defense of it. However, as will be explained further below, that doesn't mean blind devotion. The fact that you're leaning one way doesn't mean the alternative is without merit. Admitting to the occasional failings of your path while simultaneously acknowledging the upsides of the other is what great essays are made of!Plan Beforehand, Review AfterwardIt is a good idea to formulate a plan before you begin writing the essay itself, so budget some time up front to create a quick sketch of how you intend to structure your response. A recent policy change by LSAC prohibits the use of scratch paper, so any notes or outlines you wish to create at the outset must be done onscreen in the text field. Similarly, if you can wrap things up a minute or two early, you'll have time to proofread your writing and make quick edits as needed. And, trust me, there will almost certainly be some mistakes to touch up.Next, this essay is all about your interpretation of the information they give you. It is not about your specific knowledge of the topic, nor the volume of text you submit. Readers care about how persuasive your argument is and that's it. So focus on crafting a convincing defense of your chosen path and worry less about subject knowledge and word count. Consider This ExampleLet's examine the Writing Sample from the June 2007 LSAT for a detailed look at exactly how this plays out. BLZ Stores, an established men's clothing retailer with a chain of stores in a major metropolitan area, is selecting a plan for expansion. Using the facts below, write an essay in which you argue for one of the following plans over the other based on the following two criteria: The company wants to ensure its long-term financial stability. The "national plan" is to open a large number of men's clothing stores throughout the country over a short period of time. In doing this, the company would incur considerable debt. It would also have to greatly increase staff and develop national marketing and distribution capabilities. Many regional companies that adopted this strategy increase staff and develop national marketing and distribution capabilities. outside its home area. Research indicates that the BLZ name is viewed positively by those who know it. National clothing chains can offer lower prices because of their greater buying power. BLZ currently faces increasingly heavy competition in its home region from such chains. The "regional plan" is to increase the number and size of stores in the company's home region and upgrade their facilities, product quality, and service. This could be achieved for the most part with existing cash reserves. These upgrades would generally increase the prices that BLZ charges. In one trial store in which such changes were implemented, sales and profits have increased. The local population is growing. BLZ enjoys strong customer loyalty. Regional expansion could be accomplished primarily using BLZ's experienced and loyal staff and would allow continued reliance on known and trusted suppliers, contractors, and other business connections. As you can see, you have to commit to one of two choices based on two criteria. In this case, the objectives are (1) increased (and one assumes somewhat immediate) profitability and (2) long-term financial stability. As is true of every LSAT Writing prompt, the dilemma is the same: each choice will presumably better satisfy one governing objective while simultaneously under-performing with respect to the other. In other words, there's no clear winner. An odd situation for a test all about right answers, I think we can agree. Here the two paths forward are particularly opaque: neither seems to clearly accomplish either goal. Still, you can expect to assign each option to an objective, and that provides a starting point. So let's reconsider our objectives relative to the "national plan" and "regional plan": Increase profits, meaning we need a way to generate income and hopefully as quickly as possible. Although the "national plan" mentions profits, it is also a costly and seemingly high-risk move in the short term. From a profit objective, it seems more prudent to pursue the "regional plan" where BLZ avoids serious debt by using its cash reserves to increase the size and number of its stores and quickly raise prices. Basically, this option requires little change in terms of infrastructure. Thus, it allows for some potentially speedy results, as previously observed in a trial store. It doesn't offer much in the way of long-term growth/stability, however. It only applies to the stores in the company's home region where we're told competition is increasing. In a sense, this is a much more incremental, small-scale change than the alternative. But, with the potential stability, meaning we need a way to safeguard against potential setbacks on the scale of years, perhaps decades. With the talk of increasingly-heavy competition in BLZ's home region, it seems as though the "national plan" offers the more appealing long-term, large-scale solution. Granted, there are greater risks than with the regional plan. BLZ will incur considerable debt, and devote significant resources to new staff and marketing/distribution efforts. They'll also face an uphill battle of not-so-great odds given the historical consequences for other companies that adopted this strategy. But with a strong reputation and the need to expand beyond its home region, the long-term viability of the company may well depend on this big-picture approach. Two things about those bullets. First, I've tried to categorize the two plans according to their likelihood of satisfying the criteria provided. Generally, it's much more black and white to see which plan serves which objective. This particular Sample is annoyingly unclear. I also explained my reasoning for why I paired them as I did and mentioned the downsides of each. That's roughly how you should embark on the planning phase of your essay. Consider how to partner a choice with the criteria it most satisfies and why. Simultaneously determine the ways in which it falls short of perfection. Second, I wouldn't actually write that all out on the real thing, at least not as I did here. I listed it merely to demonstrate the thought process behind the assignments I've chosen.Instead, what I suggest you do to keep this process organized is imagine an x-, y-axis type graph that consolidates the Pros and Cons of each choice. Without scratch paper you can't draw this out explicitly, of course, but from an organizational, fully-cataloged standpoint these four quadrants cover everything:Now you can easily list the advantages and disadvantages of the two plans according to the criteria on offer. So if I were to then fill in each of those quadrants, it would appear as...Typing those out at the start of your essay—just four quick lists on the screen—will ensure that nothing gets overlooked, and will allow you to cut/paste each item into the text of your essay as you write it.At this point, the only thing left to do before I get to writing is to pick a side. Again, there's no right or wrong answer. Choose whichever happens to appeal to you or that you believe has more attractive pros and/or less detrimental cons. For me, with this particular Prompt, I'd choose the regional plan. Here's why. The regional plan seems to give better immediate prospects in terms of low-risk financial success. While it's unlikely to be a permanent solution to the company's long-term ambitions, it does generate quick profits with little investment. In turn, it would minimize the consequences associated with eventually pursuing a more nationally-oriented expansion. In short, employ the regional plan now, make as much money as possible from your loyal, local customer base before the competition gets untenable, then use those gains to offset the "considerable debt" associated with something more aggressive down the road. Note that I'm not recommending "do both!" That would be a mistake. I made a decision in favor of one over the other's potential existence at some point in the future. Unless, of course, the initial choice craters the company entirely, a very real concern with the national plan in this case. Let's RecapYou have to make a decision between competing options with no right or wrong answer and contrasting points for and against each choice based on a pair of desired outcomes. You must choose, despite neither being a perfect solution. suited to the criteria provided, and make some notes of the pros and cons of each choice. Once you determine the plan you feel better equipped to support, you defend it while also acknowledging the less-problematic downsides of your choice and the potential, but less-favorable, upsides of the alternative. And Now We WriteFor a lot of students out there, the most familiar essay structure is the old, high-school-favorite five-paragraph response. That's far too involved for this task. Instead, I encourage you to craft a simple, two-paragraph essay, as follows. Paragraph 1: Your ChoiceBegin with a clear statement expressing which of the two options you've chosen. Then spend the remainder of the first paragraph in defense of that decision: explain why your pros are notable and relevant and the driving factors in the determination, and downplay the weaknesses that your selection contains. Again, don't skip this part! You need to explicitly mention that your choice does in fact have failings, at which point you can then describe why their consequences aren't a deal-breaker. One of the primary considerations of anyone reading your essay will be whether you were candid and fair-minded in your treatment of an imperfect plan. Remember, admitting a degree of weakness can ultimately be a strength, provided you proactively address it and mitigate its nastier effects. This is your opportunity to do just that. Paragraph 2: The Alternative In your second paragraph, you'll provide your reasoning for avoiding the other option, specifically by downplaying its advantages and emphasizing its shortcomings. As mentioned, you need to grant that this choice has some merit. Doing so shows that you're not only equitable—diplomacy of a type goes a long way here—but it also allows you to then de-emphasize those attributes. Finally, conclude this paragraph with a sentence that quickly restates your choice and, in broad terms, how the information you've provided speaks in favor of it. Of course, if you have a few minutes remaining—and it's a good idea to pace yourself so that you do reread what you've written looking for typos, misspellings, and grammatical errors that the word processing functions might miss. These things won't keep you out of law school if you're otherwise qualified, but they hardly serve to make a great impression. Clean it up if you can.In Closing...First, note that I've provided more of a template for how to write the essay, rather than an "ideal" sample essay itself. And that's by design. While I strongly encourage you to adhere to the points and pattern outlined above, the reason a full, polished essay is absent is that I am not here to dictate your writing style. Your voice is your own, and it's important that it rings true and reads authentically throughout your essay. Are there soft rules you should follow? Yes. And the text here should give you a clear idea of what those are. But it's up to you to fill in the gaps with prose—and reasoning—of your creation. Fortunately, by following this guide I'm confident you'll have no trouble expressing yourself commendably when it counts. Does the 2020 LSAT writing sample matter for law school admissions? Absolutely! First, you must have a completed LSAT writing sample on record in order to see your LSAT score. But more importantly, even though the LSAT writing sample isn't scored, it will be included as part of your law school application and admissions committees have the option to evaluate it as part of their decisions. So, make sure to prepare for the writing, followed by a step-by-step guide with sample responses. By following these basic steps, you can write a clear and persuasive essay that showcases your argumentative writing sample Basics You have 35 minutes to complete the LSAT writing section using secure proctoring software. You're able to choose the day and time you take this part of the exam (so yes, that means you can complete the LSAT writing prompt is often called a "decision provided. These choices can be anything from what pet a person should get to what kind of community center a town should build. There will be pros and cons for each choice. These choices don't require any special knowledge of the topic—just use the information provided. The test-writers also don't necessarily prefer one choice over the other—the point is that you must make a decision with your limited time and defend your decision well. Note: As of July 2020, anyone taking the remote LSAT must have a complete writing sample on file before they can get their scores. So, if you're wondering whether your LSAT writing sample matters, know that your scores won't be released until you complete it! So, we don't recommend putting it off for too long after your LSAT test day. If you're feeling dread at the thought of completing this step of your law school application process, don't worry; our LSAT experts are here to show you exactly how to approach It Example LSAT Writing Sample Prompt (taken from The Official LSAT) Sample PrepTest of June 2007). The June 2007 LSAT writing sample describes a decision that "BLZ Stores" have to make. They're aiming to expand their stores and must choose between their profits. Second, they want to increase their profits. the national plan (to expand across the country in a short time) and the regional plan (to increase the number and size of stores in the company's home region and upgrade their facilities, product quality, and service). Next, we'll break down the decision-prompt structure and walk you through the key steps to writing a great LSAT writing sample. Step 1: Brainstorm and Make an Outline The first step for the LSAT writing sample is to brainstorm. Take a moment to think about which option you can defend it. Admissions committees will be looking for a writing sample that is well organized, so make sure you set up a loose outline before you start writing. Your outline should include four major topics: Pros of your choice Cons of the opposing choice Cons of the opposing choice Ros of the opposing choice Ros of your choice Ros of the opposing choice Ros of the opposing choice Ros of the opposing choice Ros of your choice Ros of the opposing choice Ros of th "regional plan" because: It's the safer, more conservative option for the moment. The national plan puts BLZ Stores at a greater financial risk. It can be the first step towards national expansion in the future. Step 2: Begin Writing & Briefly Summarize Your Choice The second step is to begin your LSAT writing sample. Start your intro paragraph by briefly summarizing what you'll be discussing. It can go like this: Click to show the example for step 2 BLZ Stores is facing an important decision for its business trajectory. In order to expand, the company must choose between a national plan and a regional plan. challenging decision because one option, the national plan, offers the potential for dramatic profits. The other option, the regional plan, is significantly more conservative and may not produce as much profit. Step 3: Make Your Choice and Give Support Next, continue the essay by announcing the option, the regional plan, is significantly more conservative and may not produce as much profit. that you give at least three solid reasons why you've made your choice. At this stage, you can mention how it fulfills at least one of the main consideration and a great job with one consideration and a great job with the second. Lots of students try to make the LSAT writing sample easier by bringing in new information that is either made up or comes from their own stored knowledge. This actually makes for a weaker writing sample, so be sure to avoid it. Law school admissions committees want to see how well you can argue using the facts given in the prompt like evidence in a trial. While evidence in a trial. you can and should make reasonable arguments and inferences based on the evidence, you don't get to make evidence up on your own. Click to show the support and reasoning for step 3 Despite the difficulty of the choice, one option is better than the other. BLZ Stores should opt for the regional plan. Firstly, the regional plan takes advantage of BLZ Stores' favorable position in its local area. It is already a well-known and well-liked brand, so if it is to expand it should begin in an area where it's most likely to succeed. Secondly, since BLZ Stores is facing competition from other stores that can offer lower prices, the company should spend more time on its branding and marketing. It is important that if a company can't offer the lowest prices, it offers ample reasons for customers to spend more at their store. For example, BLZ Stores can make its name synonymous with quality, luxury, or top-class shopping experience. This strategy will help defend the company against its increasing competition. Most importantly, the national plan will place too much of the company's focus on expansion. There will not be enough resources to fine-tune this marketing strategy. Thus, in the long run, it puts the company more at risk for huge financial losses. Additionally, although the regional plan has less potential for immediate large profits than the national plan, it at least offers the chance of a fair amount of profits. It is a good balance of risk and reward. Step 4: Acknowledge the Other Option's Pros and Cons Be sure to acknowledge the arguments don't support your option as strongly. If you can't think of a rebuttal to a particular point, that's okay. You can always acknowledge that point and say that it doesn't outweigh the factors in favor of the option you chose. Click to show the example for step 4 Next, it's important to note that while the national plan offers the potential of higher profits, it is also a very high risk for BLZ Stores. Other companies in presumably better positions have failed at dramatic, national expansions Since this company aims to ensure long-term financial stability, it's not in its best interest to take such a significant risk. Plus, the risk is amplified by the fact that they are not well-known outside of their hometown. Step 5: Reiterate Why Your Choice Is the Best and Summarize Your Argument Make sure you leave yourself enough time to close your writing sample with a concise conclusion. Writing samples that end mid-thought are weaker than those that end with a strong and concise statement of the LSAT writing sample to go through your essay and check for errors. Click to show the example for step 5 In the end, BLZ Stores should choose the regional plan because it takes advantage of its good position in its community, offers a fair amount of profits, and can allow the company to improve its branding and popularity for the future. objective of having long-term financial stability. With a solid strategy in mind, BLZ Stores are bound to fare better under the regional plan. How do I practice essays and compare it to our step-by-step guide. Did you clearly make a decision and back it up with evidence from the information provided? Did you lay out the pros and cons of your side and the opposition's? Keep all this in mind as you write and review your practice essays. To get you started, here is one more LSAT writing sample topics for you to practice essays. Sample Prompt (PrepTest 73) This prompt comes from the official LSAT PrepTest 73 and is provided with LSAC®'s permission. Directions: The scenario presented below describes two choices, either one of which can be supported on the basis of the information given. Your essay should consider both choices and argue for one over the other, based on the two specified criteria and the facts provided. There is no "right" or "wrong" choice: a reasonable argument can be made for either. A medium-sized company is located in a technology park in a sparsely populated area outside a major city. It has had difficulty retaining employees because of the long and expensive commute between the city and work that nearly all of its employees face. Consequently, the company will implement a commuting assistance plan. It must decide between operating a free bus for employees and subsidizing employees' costs of using public transportation. Using the facts below, write an essay in which you argue for one plan over the other based on the following two criteria: The company wants to minimize its employees' commuting expenses and frustrations. The company would lease a bus and hire a driver. The bus would make several daily circuits between the company's location and a single downtown stop, accessible by public transportation and close to a large, inexpensive parking garage. The only riders on the bus would be the company's operations. Under the second plan, the company would partially reimburse employees icost of using public transportation to commute to work. The average savings for an employees would have to make one or two transfers. Buses are scheduled to arrive every half hour at a bus shelter in the technology park. Buses are sometimes late. None of them have Wi-Fi. The average total commute time for an employee would be 60 minutes each way. How do you think you did? Let us know in the comments below. For more advice on how to tackle this important LSAT section, check out these five tips for the LSAT writing sample. Need more help? With Magoosh LSAT, you can choose between a live cohorted class with an instructor (which includes all our lessons and practice questions) or access to the self-study option by itself. More from Magoosh The second part of the LSAT is LSAT is LSAT is LSAT is LSAT is LSAT is used to be the self-study option by itself. writing exam.LSAT Argumentative Writing is included in the LSAT to give law school candidates the opportunity to demonstrate their persuasive writing skills. Although LSAT Argumentative Writing skills. Writing is administered using ProctorU's secure proctoring software on your own computer. You are eligible to take LSAT Argumentative Writing starting eight (8) days prior to the LSAT administration, on file to see their test score or have scores released to law schools to which they are applying. First Logic Games, and now the Writing Section? What is going on in the LSAT Writing Section? What is going on in the LSAT world?! If you haven't heard, LSAC is making substantial changes to the LSAT writing Section? What is going on in the LSAT world?! If you haven't heard, LSAC is making substantial changes to the LSAT writing Section? What is going on in the LSAT world?! If you haven't heard, LSAC is making substantial changes to the LSAT world?! and beyond - I'm looking at you! Let's discuss what those changes are, why LSAC claims they are changing the Writing Section, and advice for students moving forward. We'll even share an LSAT Writing prompt example at the end. Table of Contents LSAT Writing Section changes are, why LSAC claims they are changing the Writing between two solutions to a problem and arguing the criteria given to you by LSAC. With the new LSAT Argumentative Writing Section, the test makers forego the hand-holding. Now you can let your argumentative to a problem, you are building an argumentative to a problem. a brief synopsis of the issue, the key question in the debate, and four different perspectives. Your job will be to construct an argument that answers the key question. If the task sounds somewhat vague, that's the point. Your choice of argument is completely up to you. It just needs to answer the key question and address at least one of the perspectives. You can incorporate your own experiences, values, or evaluations of the perspectives. More Time Given the additional reading and analysis required, LSAC will give test takers 50 minutes to complete the section. That's 15 minutes more than the previous 35-minute limit. Here's the catch: you won't be able to use the entire time for writing. The "Start Essay Button" will not enable until at least 5 minutes pass on the initial prewriting screen. So, you can take up to 15 minutes to write regardless of how much prewriting time you used. How Many LSAT Writing Samples Do I Need? Thankfully, the new Writing Section won't be a complete overhaul of all we know. You still only need one writing sample on file, even if it's in the old format, to receive your LSAT score. You still won't need any specialized knowledge, minimum word count, or maximum length to complete the essay. Plus, the section will still be unscored for 2024-2025 LSAT dates. It took years to get rid of Logic Games once the idea came about. So we can't imagine a scored Writing Section happening any time soon. Why is LSAT Writing Changing? We're all too familiar with the priority placed on the previous Writing Section by students and admissions teams alike. That being...not a very big one. An update to the Writing Section means making it a more effective tool in the admissions process. It can better evaluate a candidate's argumentative skills, rather than just a formality to get your LSAT score. LSAC explained this reasoning in their release of the new format: "These changes will help schools better understand the writing capabilities of applicants for the purposes of their admission decisions...When test takers have an opportunity to construct an original thesis and defend it based on their own judgment and analytical evaluation, rather than following pre-ordained lines of reasoning, we can better assess a broader and more complex range of decision-making skills that writers engage in." The new structure of the Writing Section is much more akin to assignments and exams that you will face in law school. As a law student, you will be asked to develop your own conclusion based on the materials from the class you have at your disposal - just like crafting an argument based on the perspectives LSAC gives you. Thus, this new structure provides much more value to both admissions teams and students in predicting law school success. Sign up to get expert tips and exclusive invites to free LSAT classes and law school admissions workshops! How to Complete the LSAT Argumentative Writing Section, here's our advice for tackling this new format. 1. Complete the Writing Section, here's no advice for tackling this new format. need to go overboard on practice. Getting in one or two reps using example prompts under timed conditions should be plenty of preparation to get you ready for the real thing. 2. Use All the Prewriting Time No matter how much prevaiting time you end up using, you'll still only have 35 minutes to write your essay. So, taking the entire 15 minutes given to you to thoroughly read the materials and outline your thoughts will help ensure your writing is as organized as possible. This is especially essential when we take a look at the skills LSAC is testing: Clearly state a position on the issue and analyze the relationship between that position and one or more of the other perspectives. Develop and support ideas with reasoning and examples. So, take those 15 minutes to develop your thesis, think of arguments, and outline even with its corresponding evidence. 3. Structure Your Essay Around What LSAC Is Looking For in Answers That brings us to structure. What should our prewriting outline even look like? To determine that, let's take a look at what LSAC says a strong essay will do: Clearly state the thesis of your argument. Develop your thesis and explaining their relevance to the thesis with clear reasoning. Address the complexities and implications of your essay's position (for example, by identifying and addressing one or more potential counterarguments). That being said, we recommend a 4-5 paragraph essay just as in the previous Writing Section. While there is no one way to structure your essay, consider this sample LSAT Writing Section. State your thesis. Explain any necessary background information. Keep it brief: 1-2 sentences will do the trick. Affirmative Arguments Address the strongest counterarguments. What's will be in the reader's mind as they listen to your arguments? This section should lay out 1-2 of the strongest counterarguments, but spend the majority of the space rebutting those points to explain why your argument is nevertheless the strongest counterarguments. explaining it, rather than listing all the counters and then all the rebuttals. Conclusion Brief 1-2 sentences to restate your thesis and wrap things up. 4. Save a Few Minutes to Proofread LSAC expressly states in the prompt that they are looking for students to, "communicate ideas using clear and effectively chosen language." So, save yourself 3-5 minutes at the end to read through your essay for potential spelling, grammar, and sentence structure improvements. Sample LSAT Argumentative Writing Prompt to clarify these changes and give students some practice in the new format. You can check it out on the LSAC website, LawHub, or just a few scrolls below. LSAT Writing Prompt: Purpose of College KEY QUESTION: To what extent do colleges and universities serve their students' best interests when they emphasize career preparation? Perspective 1: An excerpt from a career advice blog "Recruiting talent for a variety of organizations across industries, I've witnessed how the demands of today's job market make the cultivation of practical skills and specialized training more important than ever. If a student's time at university is an investment that ought to prepare them for the future, then surely career readiness must factor highly into what such institutions aim to provide. Schools that recognize this and adapt will produce graduates who are better equipped to explore a wide array of career paths, and who can adapt to changing job roles within ever-evolving industries. That's the way for today's student to make a meaningful contribution to society—by being well-equipped to grow and changing. Perspective 2: An excerpt from a university's promotional brochure "In college, I began making my way through this world and crafting a life for myself that reflects my values. But what are my values, and how did I come to hold these values rather than others? Once I realized I didn't have to unquestioningly accept the norms and values that had been given to me, I was free to decide for myself which values I wanted to hold on to, which to leave behind, and even which new values, the reasons and evidence for them, and whether they are the right values for me. Would my classmates and I have been able to test out our ideas and ideals so effectively if my university was only focused on practical career skills? I don't believe so—such work requires a dedicated exploration of ideas and knowledge for their own sake." Perspective 3: An excerpt from a textbook on the sociology of education "Across cultures, higher education has served primarily to aid the process of socialization by instilling cultural values, norms, and behaviors, thereby integrating people into the fabric of their respective societies. A university degree provides more than just those so-called 'soft' skills necessary for making white-collar work function smoothly, like interpersonal communication and teamwork. This emblem of accomplishment the college degree, also provides a social signal that one is befitted to the upper-middle class, if not higher. By serving as class membership badges, undergraduate degrees perpetuate social stratification and hierarchies, with the result that access to opportunity is determined largely not by merit, but more so by one's ability to conform to a particular set of values—in short, to 'fit in.' In this manner, college places subtle constraints on students that go far beyond the more well-known problem of financial barriers to access." Perspective 4: An excerpt from a journal on higher education needs a transformative overhaul. The modern university has its origins in medieval schools, which stressed rote memorization and obedience to the centralized authority of teachers, reflecting the broader civic and political life. We expect citizens to be agents in the evolution of their communities Likewise, there's no reason to accept it in our educational lives. Instead, we ought to honor the agency of students in orchestrating their own educational experience. Some colleges have begun to change in the right direction, emphasizing dialogue over monologue and problem-solving over sheer information retention. This new form of relationship their own educational experience. between student and university is critical, where teachers collaborate with students to discover new truths together, where student learning experiences, and where curricula are created around topics that engage students' intrinsic motivation to learn. This moves us closer to creating the flourishing, diverse society we need." Prewriting Questions Which perspective(s)? What relevant insights do you see in the perspective(s)? What strengths and weaknesses can you find in the perspective(s)? Your argument should incorporate or address ideas from at least one of the perspectives provided. In addition, your own knowledge, experiences, and personal values can be valid sources of evidence, and you can include these in your essay: What knowledge do you already have about this issue? Consider information you have read or heard, including things you've learned at home or school, etc. What values influence your position on this issue? Consider your worldview or belief system, as well as any guiding principles or convictions you hold. What experience you might have with this or similar issue? Consider any personal experiences do you have that might be relevant to this issue? Write an argumentative essay in response to the Key Question. Want more advice from LSAT experts on the LSAT sections? Come learn from us in a Blueprint LSAT prep course, want to navigate the LSAT with instructors in a Live Course, or prefer one-on-one attention through tutoring, we have the study method that fits your learning style. Get started for free today by creating a free Blueprint LSAT account! Reviewed by: David Merson Former Head of Pre-Law Office, Northeastern University, & Admissions Officer, Brown University Reviewed: 7/17/24 The writing section is an often overlooked part of the Law School Admission Test. Read on to learn how to approach the LSAT Writing Sample.Part of becoming an excellent lawyer is having strong persuasive oral and written communication skills. Law schools require students to complete a writing sample as part of the challenging LSAT exam to assess potential law students on this skill. If writing under pressure isn't your forte, this guide will go over what you can expect on the writing sample, how to complete it efficiently, and give you a sample LSAT guestions can help you study, looking at essay examples can help you prepare! Privacy guaranteed. No spam, ever, Just like sample LSAT guestions can help you be a sample LSAT guestions can help you be a sample be a past LSAT writing sample be a past LSAT writing sample be a past sample prompt you can use to begin honing your writing skills!Brighter Construction is deciding which of two upcoming construction projects to bid on—resurfacing Hilltop Road or expanding Carlene Boulevard. Since Brighter cannot fulfill both contracts at the same time and bids constitute binding commitments, Brighter can only bid on one of the projects. Using the facts below, write an essay arguing for one project over the other based on the following two criteria:- Brighter wants to increase its capacity to take on bigger projectsThe Hilltop Road resurfacing is a small project. The potential profit is relatively low. With Brighter's experience and resources, it is almost certain to win the contract, and it is highly likely to finish on time and within budget. Brighter has specialized in small projects on time and within budget. to win contracts for bigger projects. If the project is completed under budget, Brighter will keep the extra money to purchase additional heavy equipment. The Carlene Boulevard expansion is a large project. The potential profit is much higher. It involves a kind of work that Brighter has never done before and that would require it to explain its operation. Because of the overall nature of this project, Brighter can finish the project on time and within budget. Even if brighter exceeds time and budget constraints, it will gain valuable experience. If the project goes over budget, Brighter will lose money. As you can see, this prompt offers two courses of action and asks you to choose whichever matches the stated criteria best. After carefully reading the prompt and following the above tips, you should be able to formulate a solid argument! Privacy guaranteed. No spam, ever. Here is a great LSAT writing example for the above prompt: "Based on the two criteria given, it is advisable for Brighter Construction's reputation, winning and completing the Carlene Boulevard project would have greater benefits than the Hilltop Road resurfacing project. While it is true that Brighter Construction has established a reputation for finishing projects on time and within budgets, this reputation is limited to small projects over time. Brighter Construction can demonstrate its ability to handle larger, more complex projects by taking on the challenge of an expandable project so this. Furthermore, as the prompt indicates, the Carlene Boulevard expansion has the potential for higher profits. Winning this project will open up doors for Brighter Construction, which can lead to more high-profit projects in the future. It will be an excellent chance for Brighter Construction does not profit from the Carlene Boulevard expansion project, it can prepare itself to handle bigger projects better than before and take up more significant opportunities in the future. The Carlene Boulevard expansion project is much bigger and requires new and more advanced resources. Hence, Brighter Construction will acquire the necessary resources to handle bigger projects after winning this projects. The company will have successfully expanded its operations, and thus, it can bid on more significant projects in the future. The more significant the projects Brighter Construction takes on, the higher the project will provide valuable experience to Brighter Construction. The fact that it is unsure if it will complete the project on time and within budget means that the company will learn new skills, gain new insights, and discover new strategies. Brighter Construction will learn to optimize its resources better if it exceeds budget constraints. The company will undoubtedly face challenges and obstacles throughout the project, and this experience will be priceless. It will enable Brighter Construction to improve its work quality and overall competence and help win more significant projects in the future. In conclusion, while the Hilltop Road resurfacing project seems safer, Brighter Construction should bid on the Carlene Boulevard expansion project to enhance its reputation among potential clients and increase its capacity to take on more significant projects. Brighter Construction with valuable experience, allow it to acquire new resources, and allow the company to prove its ability to handle more substantial project successfully. Winning this project successfully. increase its profitability accordingly."Why This Answer Is GoodWhat makes this essay good is that it gets straight to the point. It strongly argues for one side and provides relevant examples to support that argument. The essay advocates for Brighter Construction to prioritize bidding on the Carlene Boulevard expansion project over the Hilltop Road resurfacing project based on enhancing reputation and increasing capacity for larger projects. It successfully argues that winning the Carlene project would demonstrate the company's ability to handle more significant endeavors and open doors to higher-profit opportunities. and does not affect your overall LSAT writing score. However, it is still considered an integral part of the admissions process as it provides a window into your aptitude for a career as a lawyer. Similar to the experimental section, the writing score. evaluate your ability to construct a well-organized, logically coherent argument. Each law school evaluates the writing sample differently, but missing or weak responses have been used as grounds for rejection by law schools. Get Juris Education's help with the LSAT to avoid rejection. Privacy guaranteed. No spam, ever. Planning and writing an entire essay within 35 minutes might seem intimidating. To make this process less daunting, here are our top steps to approach the writing section, but you'll also free up space to focus on the rest of your LSAT prep. It's a smart way to balance your study time.Read the Prompt CarefullyBefore you begin writing your essay, you must consider all the facts. You should be able to make your decision based solely on the information you have given. Read the prompt carefully to determine which side you can create the best argument for. Focus on the FactsEven if you're well-versed in the topic presented, you should only use the information given to you to make an argument. Do not include outside information that you believe will strengthen your analysis and reasoning skills. Remember, There Is No Right or Wrong AnswerThere is no right or wrong answer to these prompts. They are presented in a way that will make it somewhat challenging to choose the option with the most supporting evidence, but either side can be argued. Choose whichever side you feel you can create the most persuasive argument for, even if it goes against what you would traditionally side with. If you're having difficulty choosing a side, try to jot down a few pros and cons for each and see which side has the most pros. Make a PlanTo avoid wasting time, getting writer's block, or writing an incohesive essay, you should give yourself around 10 minutes to plan your essay. Create a quick outline detailing what each paragraph of your essay will argue. Many LSAT test-takers write their sample in a series of short or only two paragraphs—one detailing the advantages of their chosen side and another detailing the disadvantages of their chosen side and another detailing the disadvantages of their chosen side and another detailing the disadvantages of their chosen side and another detailing the disadvantages of their chosen side and another detailing the disadvantages of their chosen side and another detailing the disadvantages of their chosen side and another detailing the disadvantages of their chosen side and another detailing the disadvantages of their chosen side and another detailing the disadvantages of their chosen side and another detailing the disadvantages of the opposing side. strengths of your choice and the cons of the opposite side. Your writing sample will also list certain criteria when choosing a side. Ensure you include these in your outline. Conclude your essay briefly by reiterating your stance and summarizing the main reasons you chose one side over the other. Your essay plan should be completed using jot notes to avoid wasting the time you'll need to write and revise your sample.Keep Your Writing Clear and ConciseThe best way to get your point across clearly is to use simple language that is easy to understand. Do not try to impress the committee by using vocabulary you aren't familiar with. You should also only use words that you are sure you can spell correctly. Leave Time to EditWhile 35 minutes may not seem like a lot of time, once you've created a rough plan for your essay, it won't take too long to write it out. Remember, this essay should only be a few short paragraphs! You will make at least a few silly errors as you race against the clock to finish your essay and hit the LSAT writing deadline. Since this sample is meant to give the admissions committee insight into your writing skills, you must revise your writing to eliminate any avoidable spelling, grammar, or syntax errors. Give yourself around five minutes to review your sample to find these mistakes before submitting it. Privacy guaranteed. No spam, ever. If you have no idea where to start for your LSAT writing sample, don't fret. We've compiled a step-by-step guide to help you break down the writing process. Taking time to practice your LSAT writing essay is a great way to self-study for the LSAT. You may also want to look at an LSAT writing essay is a great way to self-study for the best way to improve your writing is simply to write! So, please look at our guide below to help you learn how to approach the writing sample. What is the Prompt?Let's start with this prompt from the June 2007 LSAT: BLZ Stores, an established men's clothing retailer with a chain of stores in a major metropolitan area, is selecting a plan for expansion. Using the facts below, write an essay in which you argue for one of the following plans over the other based on the following two criteria: The company wants to ensure its long-term financial stability. The "national plan" is to open a large number of men's clothing stores throughout the country over a short period of time. In doing this, the company would incur considerable debt. It would also have to greatly increase staff and develop national marketing and distribution capabilities. Many regional companies that adopted this strategy increased their profits dramatically. A greater number tried and failed, suffering severe financial consequences. BLZ is not well known outside its home area. Research indicates that the BLZ name is viewed positively by those who know it. National clothing chains can offer lower prices because of their greater buying power. BLZ currently faces increasingly heavy competition in its home region from such chains. The "regional plan" is to increase the number and size of stores in the company's home region and upgrade their facilities, product quality, and service. This could be achieved for the most part with existing cash reserves. These upgrades would generally increase the prices that BLZ charges. In one trial store in which such changes were implemented, sales and profits have increased. The local population is growing. BLZ enjoys strong customer loyalty. Regional expansion could be accomplished primarily using BLZ's experienced and loyal staff and would allow continued reliance on known and trusted suppliers, contractors, and other business connections. This prompt makes an excellent example thanks to several factors: Clear Decision Criteria: The Prompt gives two distinct criteria by which to evaluate the plants. Realistic Context: The prompt is set within a realistic-looking business. Comparative Analysis: By presenting two contrasting plans, you are encouraged to weigh the pros and cons of each. decision. Ethical Considerations: By considering the risks outlined by the national plan, it opens the floor for you to consider not only the commercial viability of the plans, but also if they are ethically sound. Room to Argue: While the facts are given, the prompt gives plenty of room for you to craft your own argument. How to ApproachThe most important step in approaching the essay prompt is to take time to read the prompt and follow any additional directions carefully. It can be extremely beneficial to use a little time to simply consider the prompt, and plan out how you want to approach it. You could do this by jotting down your initial thoughts on the side. When approaching the prompt, remember that law schools are not looking for specialized knowledge of the law to answer the prompt. Rather, they are looking for your ability to organize your essay would be to use just two paragraphs. The first paragraphs will focus on the choice you made and why, while the second paragraph will take the time to criticize the other choice. LSAT Writing Tips - How to StartHere is a step by step process on how to get started: Step One: Compare and contrast the opposing argument, you need to understand both sides thoroughly. Before writing, create a list to compare and contrast the opposing arguments. This way, you can weigh the choices before you decide which side you're on. There are several ways to do this. You may create a side-by-side chart, a pro-and-con list, a Venn diagram, or a thought map—the possibilities are endless! Use whatever works best for you to organize your thoughts effectively. Step Two: PrioritizeNow, it's time to examine each argument carefully. Pay attention to its strengths and weaknesses and the criteria and factors provided. When prioritizing, consider what is most important in the situation. Which argument is strengths and he criteria and factors provided. When prioritizing, consider what is most important in the situation. side to argue for. Be confident and prepared to defend your choice in your essay fully. Use the brainstorming you've done in steps one and two to create an outline for your writing sample. Step Four: Get WritingNow that your argument has been built, it's time to start writing! Remember to keep it concise-every sentence should be purposeful and necessary. Avoid fluff and filler words. Defend Your ChoiceStart by explaining why your choice is the best one. List the factors that you prioritized and your reasons for your argument. Since there is no "right" answer, your argument may have weak points, which you should address. Explain why these weak points aren't significant or how the strengths in your argument compensate for them. Explain How the Opposition's strengths, as it shows you've made your decision carefully. But you should point out the "fatal flaw" of the other choice that led you to reject it. Be thorough and explain your thinking in detail. Step Five: ReviseThoughtless errors never put you in a good light with admissions committees. As we mentioned before, leave yourself some time to proofread your writing sample and edit out any mistakes! Privacy guaranteed. No spam, ever. Here are some common mistakes to avoid when completing the LSAT Writing section. Misinterpreting the Prompt Misinterpreting the LSAT essay prompt is a common mistake that significantly undermines the essay's effectiveness. This error occurs when test-takers fail to fully grasp the nuances of the prompt, leading without carefully undermines the essay's effectiveness. considering the specific question can result in a lack of understanding between the essay's content and the intended evaluative criteria. This weakens the essay's persuasiveness and coherence. To avoid this, test-takers should invest time in comprehending the prompt, identifying key issues, and ensuring their responses specifically address the outlined instructions. Lack of Evidence to support your arguments. This mistake often results from inadequate preparation or time constraints, leading to hastily chosen examples. To address this, test-takers should prioritize relevant, specific, and well-developed evidence

to ensure the credibility of their claims and avoid potential counterarguments that could weaken the overall persuasiveness of the essay. Provide a Clear takeaway. This oversight, often due to time constraints, results in an abrupt ending that leaves the essay incomplete. A well-crafted conclusion, summarizing key points and offering a compelling final thought, is crucial for reinforcing the main ideas and enhancing the overall coherence and impact of the essay. Are you wondering if you're ready to take the LSAT? Take this "Am I Ready For the LSAT? Quiz" to determine if you can take this difficult exam! Privacy guaranteed. No spam, ever. Here are some commonly asked guestions about this section of the LSAT, to help you understand what to expect and how to prepare 1. How Long Should My Writing Sample on the LSAT Be?While your writing sample has no word limit, you should aim to be as clear and concise as possible. Most writing samples on the LSAT are between two and four paragraphs long. Ensure you prioritize quality over quantity.2. How to Prepare for the writing sample is to review sample prompts and answer them under the same time constraints you'll be in on test day.3. Do Law Schools Read the Writing Sample on the LSAT? Yes, law schools do read the writing samples to assess candidates' writing and argumentative skills.4. How Long Is the Writing Sample on the LSAT? You will have 35 minutes to complete the writing sample on the LSAT? more than once. You are only required to submit one writing sample for your LSAT to be considered complete.6. How Is the LSAT Writing Test Scored? The LSAT writing score. However, it is still considered an integral part of the admissions process as it provides a window into your aptitude for a career as a lawyer. Similar to the experimental section, the writing sample is reviewed by admissions committees alongside your LSAT score and other application materials to evaluate your ability to construct a well-organized, logically coherent argument. Each law school evaluates the writing sample differently, but missing or weak responses have been used as grounds for rejection by law schools. Given the stress you'll be under trying to master all three sections of the LSAT seem impossible! Knowing how to approach the LSAT to write the most effective argument should ease some of this stress and help ensure you write a compelling sample to impress the judges! The LSAT Argumentative Writing task was introduced in 2024 as an updated version of the exam's writing sample. Test takers are given a debatable prompt, as well as three to four different perspectives that provide additional context to the issue. They are then asked to draft an essay that presents a concise and well-organized argument using at least some of the information contained in the perspectives. The Argumentative Writing task is unscored and may be taken up to eight days before the multiple-choice part of the LSAT, or up to one year after. proctored through the computer's webcam and microphone. Test takers are given a total of 50 minutes to complete their essay. The first 15 minutes are used for prewriting analysis, allowing test takers are also given questions to assist them in thinking through and analyzing the information they have been given. After this, they have 35 minutes to craft their essay. Prospective law students are required to have a writing sample on file for their LSAT scores to be sent to designated law programs, and if a writing sample has been completed with the last five years, the Argumentative Writing task does not need to be completed again. When it comes to completing task, there is no word or space limit; however, LSAC encourages test-takers to focus on crafting a well-organized and concise argument rather than being overly concerned about how many words they use to do this. Given that the essay is unscored, some test takers put little effort into preparing for this aspect of the exam. This is a mistake. Law programs do read essays and often use them when deciding between two candidates who are otherwise very similar. Over the past few years, law programs have expressed concerns about the rise of AI-assisted writing technologies used by prospective students to craft personal statements and complete law school applications. In fact, the desire of law schools to better understanding of the task and focused practice. The amount of practice test takers put into writing a commanding essay will likely not be as extensive as preparing for the multiple-choice sections of the LSAT. But some practice is strongly encouraged, as the more familiar you are with writing an essay within a strict time limit, the better you will perform when completing the task for real. Here are the most effective strategies to keep in mind for the Argumentative Writing task: Prewriting Phase: 15 minutes, you will read the question prompt and the various provided perspectives. Read these with a critical eye and a sense of urgency, as if you were completing a Reading Comprehension passage. Determine your position on the issue. Remember, there are no right or wrong positions here—what matters is choosing a position and supporting it. You are not being evaluated on what position you take, but how well you support that position. If you read the prompt and perspectives and don't feel an immediate reaction, there's no reason to worry. Writing from a place of personal investment may make writing the essay easier, but having an immediate reaction to the prompt and/or perspectives is not necessary to create a compelling argument. If nothing resonates with you, that's perfectly fine. Simply choose a position and use the available information that will most help you support it. Note what you agree or disagree with. Some perspectives may not provide much information for you to work with, but others will give you more than enough information to balance things out. You do not need to address at least some of the points being made. Write down your thesis statement: Having a clear thesis statement, or at least the beginnings of one, will make writing your essay significantly easier when you transition into the writing part of the task. Don't be afraid to include personal experience: If you have personal experience or helpful examples that relate to the topic and can be included in your essay, use them! The point of this essay is not simply to regurgitate the information you've already been given, but to write a strong and coherent argument. While you should certainly address aspects of the given perspectives, emphasizing personal experience where it adds value can make your essay more interesting and compelling. Writing Phase: 35 minutesEstablish your position: The first paragraph of your essay should make your position on the issue clear. The people who will read your essay are not reading it the same way you would read a mystery novel. They do not want to be kept in suspense, and they are not hoping for plot twists or surprises. Be as clear as you can be about your position, because the clearer you are, the easier it will be to support your argument. Decide on the best order for supporting paragraphs: There is no need to respond to each perspective you are given one by one, or to address every point made within a particular perspective. Once you know what points you want to make to support your argument, organize paragraphs around those points, then arrange those paragraphs in the order that provides the best flow and ease of readability. End with a solid conclusion: Conclusion: Conclusions do not need to be brilliant or offer an unexpected revelation. They simply need to show how the points you raised in your supporting paragraphs relate back to the thesis in your first paragraph. Manage your time wisely: If you find yourself running out of time, focus on completing your essay rather than addressing grammatical flaws or spelling errors. After you have a complete essay, you can always go back and make additional edits, but you do not want to run out of time and fail to write a conclusion, or leave important information out of a supporting paragraph. There is no single right way to craft a strong essay, and what works for one test taker may not be effective for another. While most essays are 3 to 5 paragraphs long, what ultimately matters is generating a cohesive, well-supported argument. The more you practice writing essays, the better sense you will have of how many paragraphs you need to create the strongest argument. possible. It can be helpful to keep the following outline in mind when drafting your essay: Paragraph 1: Introduce the issue and provide a one-sentence thesis in which you make your first argument, Argument #1, drawing on one of the provided perspectives and incorporating any personal experience where relevant. Paragraph 3: Make your second argument, Argument #2, drawing on a second provided perspective and incorporating any personal experience where relevant. Paragraph 4: Offer an opposing argument and respond to that argument, highlighting flaws, paradoxes, or logical reasoning fallacies. Paragraph 5: Write a brief conclusion that summarizes your thesis and demonstrates how the points made in your supporting paragraphs relate to the thesis. Below are two alternate essay outlines you might want to consider using: Essay Outline #1: Paragraph 1: Introduce the issue and provide a one-sentence thesis in which you make your position on the issue clear. Paragraph 2: Make your first argument, Argument #1, drawing on one of the provided perspectives and incorporating any personal experience where relevant. Paragraph 4: Write a brief conclusion that summarizes your thesis and demonstrates how the points made in your supporting paragraphs relate to the thesis. Essay Outline #2: Paragraph 1: Introduce the issue and provide a one-sentence thesis in which you make your position on the issue and provide a one-sentence thesis in which you make your first argument, Argument #1, drawing on one of the provided perspectives and incorporating any personal experience where relevant. Paragraph 3: Offer an opposing argument and respond to that argument, highlighting flaws, paradoxes, or logical reasoning fallacies. Paragraph 4: Write a brief conclusion that summarizes your thesis and demonstrates how the points made in your supporting paragraphs relate to the thesis. Again, the number of paragraphs your essay has is not as important as making a strong argument that is well-supported by information from the various perspectives, as well as your own relevant personal experience. The most persuasive arguments are not lengthy and rambling; they are focused, well-organized, and make logical sense as you progress from one paragraph to the next.