



**MIGHTY OAK**  
TEST PREP

# Practice ACT Essay Number FOUR

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# Civic Involvement

Since the founding of the United States, the nation has relied on citizens to be actively involved in government affairs -- as Lincoln reminded us in the Gettysburg Address, ours is a government “of the people, by the people, and for the people.” Yet with each passing generation, the average citizen has increasingly removed him- or herself from participating in government. Is the idea of civic involvement outdated? In the 21st century, do citizens really need to be directly involved in government proceedings?

*Read and carefully consider these perspectives. Each suggests a particular way of thinking about the importance of civic involvement.*

## Perspective One

Our government works best when all citizens participate. Whether it's jury duty, campaigning for a candidate, reporting a broken street-light, launching an initiative, or running for office, civic involvement ensures that government runs efficiently and fairly for all.

## Perspective Two

The point of a representative democracy like the one in the United States is that we elect passionate, trustworthy people to safeguard our interests. We have our own lives to live, whether as workers, as students, as parents or children, and we elect politicians to do the civic work for us.

## Perspective Three

Technology has made civic involvement almost unnecessary; news websites and social media continuously inform us of relevant local issues, keeping our politicians honest and making it trivially easy to let them know how we feel.

## Essay Task

Write a coherent, unified essay in which you evaluate multiple perspectives given on the issue of civic involvement. In your essay, be sure to:

- analyze and evaluate the perspectives given
- state and develop your own perspective on the issue
- explain the relationship between your perspective and those given

Your perspective may be in full agreement with any of the others, in partial agreement, or wholly different. Whatever the case, support your ideas with logical reasoning and detailed, persuasive examples.

## Plan Your Essay Here

*Writing on this page will not be used to determine your score  
(but don't be tempted to just go to the next page and start writing – planning is crucial!)*

*Use the space below to plan your essay and come up with ideas. Here are some things to think about:*

Consider the strengths and weaknesses of the three provided perspectives

- do they make useful points? What are they forgetting to think about?
- why might they be convincing or unconvincing to other people?

Personal experiences, beliefs, and knowledge

- what is your personal position on this topic? What are the strong and weak points of your position?
- how will you compellingly argue for this position in your essay?



WRITING TEST

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