



MIGHTY OAK
TEST PREP

Practice ACT Essay Number TWO

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Immigration

The story of the United States is a story of immigration. From the very first settlers to recent waves of people fleeing strife in their native countries, the US is populated with people (or their ancestors) who originally called somewhere else home. Yet almost as long as there has been a United States, there has been disagreement about who should be allowed to immigrate, and several recent events have once again brought this issue to the forefront of public consciousness. Overall, is immigration beneficial or detrimental to the United States? Do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?

Read and carefully consider these perspectives. Each suggests a particular way of thinking about the impact of American immigration policies.

Perspective One

We are a nation of immigrants. With the exception of Native Americans, we (or our ancestors) are all immigrants to this country. It is hypocritical for us to deny others the same opportunity that we received by immigrating to this country. It is the obligation of our nation to welcome immigrants with open doors and open arms.

Perspective Two

Immigrants are a potential resource to our nation, bringing a diversity of ideas, cultures, arts, and cuisines. Great thinkers and workers want to come to the USA, and foreigners at risk in their countries deserve asylum in ours. We should allow immigration if the immigrants can demonstrate that they will be contributors to (and not burdens on) our society.

Perspective Three

Among those immigrating into this country are terrorists, drug dealers, rapists, and murderers. Immigrants take our jobs, driving up unemployment. Those who can't get jobs are forced to steal or sell drugs to survive, increasing crime. For the safety of ourselves and our children and the greater good of our nation, we must close our borders and deny further immigration.

Essay Task

Write a coherent, unified essay in which you evaluate multiple perspectives given on the impact of immigration. 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?

