



**MIGHTY OAK**  
TEST PREP

# Practice ACT Essay Number ONE

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# Struggles & Hardship

When many great people are asked to look back at their lives and identify the moments that defined their character, they often recall struggles they endured and challenges they overcame. Indeed, many believe that struggle is the key component that drives personal growth. These people sometimes even seek out and embrace adversity for themselves and their loved ones. Others, however, recognize that struggles and challenges can be uncomfortable, unpleasant, unhealthy, and stressful, so they seek to avoid such hardships for themselves and their children. Should hardship and struggles be avoided, or should they be embraced as opportunities for growth?

*Read and carefully consider these perspectives. Each suggests a particular way of thinking about the impact of struggles and hardship.*

## Perspective One

Without having challenges to overcome, we will never have the opportunity to discover what we are capable of achieving. Life without challenges makes people physically and mentally soft.

## Perspective Two

Our ancestors have toiled for centuries to create advances to make our lives easier. Why should we be forced to endure hardship? History and literature can teach us about hardship without our having to endure it personally.

## Perspective Three

School, sports, and activities provide us with ample opportunities to experience increasing levels of simulated hardship as we get older, helping to forge character and growth without forcing us to endure real deprivation or struggle.

## Essay Task

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

*Yes, the first page of the essay really is shorter than the rest. On the real test, this space will have slots where you fill in your test booklet and writing test form numbers. This first page is seven lines shorter than the next three.*

**Start the WRITING TEST here.**

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