

Beating the Clock: Writing Timed Essays

No. 9 in the Writing Center Handout Series

Like any other test, a timed essay attempts to assess your knowledge of a subject. Unlike multiple choice questions or fill-in-the-blanks, however, an essay test also examines your critical thinking ability and your ability to communicate your ideas. Remember, what

The page features a large, vertical rectangular area for writing. This area is bounded by a thin grey line on the left and right sides. Inside this boundary, there are numerous horizontal grey lines spaced evenly down the page, providing a guide for handwriting. The top of this writing area is aligned with the paragraph of text above it. The overall appearance is that of a standard lined piece of paper intended for an essay response.