

Writing/Reading Refresher

WebQuest Description: Garrett College writing & reading placement test online refresher.

Grade Level: College / Adult

Curriculum: English / Language Arts

Keywords: Writing reading skills placement test

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Introduction

Welcome to the Garrett College Online Writing/Reading Refresher Course. This online resource is supplementary to the Face-To-Face Refresher Courses offered at Garrett College. What is a Refresher Course? Garrett College offers two types of Refresher Courses – face-to-face and online. Courses are designed to help students improve on math, writing, and reading skills and course placements before the student’s first semester. FACE-TO-FACE REFRESHER COURSES are free or low-cost, one-day courses offered at Garrett College’s McHenry Campus through the summer months. Courses provide 5 hours of content instruction, lunch, and placement testing. ONLINE REFRESHER COURSES are free, online, self-paced courses, in the form of a web quest, offered by Garrett College. Students may access and complete an Online Refresher Course from any device with internet connectivity. Once a student has completed the course, he or she may contact the college to schedule placement testing. Who should take a Refresher Course? NEW STUDENTS BEFORE TAKING PLACEMENT TEST: New students may use the refresher resource to brush-up on skills prior to taking the placement test for the first time. Students may choose to utilize this resource if they feel they will not perform well, are facing test anxiety, or feel they can do better with help up-front. NEW STUDENTS AFTER ATTEMPTING PLACEMENT TEST (one or more times): Students wishing to retake the placement test are required to provide evidence of academic intervention before they are permitted to retest. Suggested intervention methods are the face-to-face and online refresher courses. Participating in one of the intervention methods will be the student’s “fee” to retake the placement test. To verify this requirement with the online refresher course option, the student must take the quiz at the end of the webquest. Information on Placement Testing at Garrett College Garrett College utilizes Accuplacer Next Generation testing platform for placement purposes. Students that do not meet one of the placement exemptions are required to complete the placement assessment prior to registering for classes. If a student is unsatisfied with placement results, he or she may retest after completing an academic intervention method (described above). DIRECTIONS To navigate through the Online Writing/Reading Refresher Course, click on the tabs to the left. Within each tab, you will find a variety of notes, resources, tips, etc. to help you increase your skills in that area. Read and work through as much of the content as possible to gain the most benefit from this refresher. At the end of this course, you will find two tabs labeled “Quiz Questions” and “Answer Sheet”. Use those two areas to complete the QUIZ. Everyone is encouraged to complete the quiz to assess your newly acquired knowledge.**If you are a student wishing to re-take the placement test, you are REQUIRED to complete the quiz. An advisor will be able to view your score upon completion to determine retest eligibility.

Tasks

Introduction to Writing TestThe Accuplacer Next Generation Writing (English) test consists of 25 questions designed to evaluate a test-taker’s ability to revise and edit multiparagraph text. Questions cover two broad knowledge and skills categories, each containing three subcategories: expression of ideas (development, organization, effective language use), and standard English conventions (sentence structure, usage, punctuation). The assessment is computer adaptive, multiple-choice, resulting in a single placement score. Questions are multiple choice in format and appear in sets built around a common, extended passage. In answering the questions, test takers must determine the best revision or editing decision in a particular case (or that no change should be made). Passages on the test cover a range of content areas, writing modes, and complexities. Browse through the information below to enhance your knowledge of concepts covered in the Writing portion of the placement test. Be sure to read all information and watch the videos.

Process

Introduction to Reading TestThe Accuplacer Next Generation Reading test is a broad-spectrum, 20-question, computer-adaptive assessment of test takers’™ developed ability to derive meaning from a range of prose texts and to determine the meaning of words and phrases in short and extended contexts. Questions are multiple choice in format and are either discrete (standalone) or part of sets built around a common passage or passages. Four broad knowledge and skill categories are assessed: information and Ideas (reading closely, determining central ideas and themes, summarizing, understanding relationships), rhetoric (analyzing word choice rhetorically, analyzing text structure, analyzing point of view, analyzing purpose, analyzing arguments), synthesis (analyzing multiple texts), and vocabulary. Passages on the test cover a range of content areas, writing modes, and complexities. Browse through the information below to enhance your knowledge of concepts covered in the Reading portion of the placement test. Be sure to read all information and watch the videos.

Evaluation

Basic Information about the Accuplacer Placement Test
Accuplacer is an adaptive test. This means that the questions are chosen for you on the basis of your answers to previous questions. This is a multiple choice test. The test is NOT timed. The test requires you to choose an answer to every question - you cannot leave an item blank. You cannot skip a question and go back to it. You cannot go back to any question...ever. Once you click next, you have submitted your final answer to that question.
Test Taking Strategies
Arrive early and prepared. Practice positive thinking. Read the instructions for each question carefully. Instructions change frequently. Read the question without looking at the answers. Use your scrap paper and work out problems to the best of your ability.
Testing Best Practices
If you don't know the answer to the questions: (1) use the process of elimination, (2) eliminate the most obviously incorrect answers, (3) guess smart. The test is not timed, so: ignore other students completing ahead of you - complete at the best pace for your success. Use scratch paper to write out sentences if you need to see your work. Use scratch paper to work out math problems. Check your answer.

Category and Score					Score
				Total Score	

To Complete the Refresher Quiz:
Open attached document below to view the quiz questions. It is recommended that you print this document, if possible. Complete the quiz questions on paper prior to opening up the "Answer Quiz Here" tab. Once you've answered all quiz questions on paper, open the "Answer Quiz Here" tab and select the multiple choice answer that matches your solved answer. Submit quiz responses when finished. Be sure to fill in your FIRST and LAST name on the quiz. You must achieve an 80% to qualify to retake the placement test.

Conclusion

Additional Resources
View the additional resources (sites) below for extra help!

Teacher Page

Standards

Credits

Other