

WPE Prompt: Fall 2010

To ensure anonymity, please write your name on the back of the last page.

Steps to Success:

- Write only on one side of the paper.
- Outline carefully before writing, and proofread when done.
- Cross out mistakes neatly and keep the writing as legible as possible.
- Remember the importance of vivid examples.

College-level Writing:

- You are being tested for college-level writing, so be aware of how you present your ideas, particularly if the topic or your views could be considered controversial. Avoid racial, ethnic, or sexist slurs or stereotypes, inflammatory rhetoric, and profanity. Approach the issue formally and demonstrate an awareness of your audience; you are not being judged on your views, but on how well you present them—the writing itself.

Write a 60-minute essay addressing the following prompt:

In her article on the current economic downturn and its effect on American workers, Bette Husted tells the story of her brother, Joe, and his recent struggles with unemployment. She raises a number of questions about what is owed the American worker, whether the bottom line of a company and its responsibility to increase profit should come at the expense of its employees.

In a thoughtful, organized essay, discuss your own experience with work—how you were (or are) treated, how well you were paid, and the good and bad of your working conditions. If you've never held a job, discuss what you know about someone close to you who has—a spouse, a parent, a brother or sister, a friend.

Make your essay concrete, but discuss your feelings about what is owed to an employee when lowering wages and cutting costs means more profit for the company.