

Department of Accounting Writing Assessment Instructions

The Department offers writing assessments throughout your major program to measure your writing ability and the relative effect the writing emphasis in the Accounting program has had on your ability to communicate clearly and analyze effectively. Our hope is that your writing skills develop and improve throughout the course of your major program.

This skills assessment will test your ability to synthesize information from the business press and then construct an argument. The essay will also be assessed for style, as well as for correct grammar, punctuation, and usage. Articles selected for analysis frequently come from The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, Forbes, and other leading business publications. Each semester, a different article is chosen by Assistant Program Director Barb Wester.

Briefly **summarize** the article and then **analyze** it by identifying a particular issue raised in the article and examining its implications. Do not use the exact language of the article in your own writing unless quoting and attribute any direct quotations correctly. Your response should have a clearly identifiable thesis position and feature well-substantiated claims that would be of interest to an audience of readers of the business press. The summary should take up between one-quarter and one-third of your total response.

You have a maximum of 75 minutes for completing the assessment and may only take it once. Write the essay in full and grammatically correct sentences. **Proofread your essay.**

Essays will be scored on a scale of 20 points: 6, development of argument; 4, thesis statement construction; 4, clarity; 4, style; and 2, mechanics/micro skills. The assessment will also count for part of your grade in ACCT:3200. Scores for the assessments will be available in two weeks. Once the scores are in, the grader will attach a score sheet to your submission - please review this sheet and look at the areas where your writing can improve.

If you have questions about your assessment, you may e-mail [Barb Wester](mailto:barbara-wester@uiowa.edu), Assistant Director of the Accounting Writing and Communications Program (barbara-wester@uiowa.edu).