

Name _____

Period: _____

Date: _____

ACT Writing: Break It Down

English 11--Mrs. Mosdell

Rationale:

The ACT Writing section asks you to look at a passage of information and then three perspectives about the topic in that passage. From this, you are then asked to break it down to respond to what you have read and understood.

To tackle these prompts, let's take a look at HOW the prompt is written and explore one together.

Read the ACT Writing Prompt Below:

Directions: Read the opening passage, which will give you basic information about your topic. Once finished, look at the three perspectives about this topic and consider these ideas. Finally, look at the "Essay Task" at the bottom to respond to this topic. Your final response essay should be 3-5 paragraphs in length.

Machines vs. People

Many of the goods and services we depend on daily are now supplied by intelligent, automated machines rather than human beings. Robots build cars and other goods on assembly lines, where once there were human workers. Many of our phone conversations are now conducted not with people but with sophisticated technologies. We can now buy goods at a variety of stores without the help of a human cashier. Automaton is generally seen as a sign of progress but what is lost when we replace humans with machines? Given the accelerating variety and prevalence of intelligent machines, it is worth examining the implications and meaning of their presence in our lives.

- Perspective 1--What we lose with the replacement of people by machines is some part of our own humanity. Even our mundane daily encounters no longer require from us basic courtesy, respect, and tolerance for other people.
- Perspective 2--Machines are good at low-skill, repetitive jobs, and at high-speed, extremely precise jobs. In both cases they work better than humans. This efficiency leads to a more prosperous and progressive world for everyone.
- Perspective 3--Intelligent machines challenge our long-standing ideas about what humans are or can be. This is good because it pushes both humans and machines toward new, unimagined possibilities.

Essay Task

Write a unified, coherent essay in which you evaluate multiple perspectives on the respective roles of machines and people. In your essay, be sure to:

- o analyze and evaluate the perspectives given

- o state and develop your own perspective on the issue
- o 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.



**What do you think? What would you do to respond to this prompt?
What ideas do you have about it so far?**

Let's try this out, step-by-step!

STEP 1: Topic--Read through the passage provided by the ACT. Let's examine the topic and start putting it together.

Machines vs. People

Many of the goods and services we depend on daily are now supplied by intelligent, automated machines rather than human beings. Robots build cars and other goods on assembly lines, where once there were human workers. Many of our phone conversations are now conducted not with people but with sophisticated technologies. We can now buy goods at a variety of stores without the help of a human cashier. Automaton is generally seen as a sign of progress but what is lost when we replace humans with machines? Given the accelerating variety and prevalence of intelligent machines, it is worth examining the implications and meaning of their presence in our lives.

What is the MAIN IDEA? In other words, what information do we learn from this passage. Record the main idea below.

What are your initial thoughts and opinions about this topic? What do you agree or disagree with about this prompt?

STEP 2: Analyze--Now, let's examine the "Perspectives" provided by the ACT. The ACT prompts asks you to first: "**analyze and evaluate the perspectives given.**" Let's give it a go! In your group, read the perspective assigned to your group and consider what it means.



Assigned Perspective: # _____

**What is the MAIN IDEA or point behind your assigned Perspective?
As a group, discuss and record below, in a sentence or sentences.**

STEP 3: In your group, you will now jot down your ideas about your assigned perspective. On the board (under your number), record the following information:

- Write your Perspective # at the top.
- Record a list of beliefs this perspective adds to the topic. What does this perspective believe about "Machines vs. People"? Record a list of points you can see or infer from this perspective.
- Finally, record whether your group thinks this perspective is for or against, critical or supportive, or just negative or positive to the main passage idea. Tell us why you think that.

STEP 4: Let's analyze our three perspectives. Once your group has completed your perspective point ideas, divide out writing responsibility. Pick one person who would be willing to explain the ideas you all recorded.

Now, let's share what you came up with for each perspective. Take notes for each of them below:

Perspective #1:

Perspective #2:

Perspective #3:



STEP 5: Your perspective--The ACT prompt then asks us to “**state and develop your own perspective on the issue.**” What do you think? What are your thoughts on this concept/idea/problem?

What is **YOUR** perspective on this topic? What do you think about “**Machines vs. People**” now that you have read the passage and considered your perspective? Share your ideas below:
