

# The Saint Louis University Writing Examination for Graduate Students

THE GRAD SLUWE:  
FAQS AND TIPS



# What is the Grad SLUWE?

- A placement exam that assesses writing skills
- All Graduate Pathway students take the exam
  - Helps us place you in the appropriate level
- For direct entry students, your program determines if you must take the exam
  - Helps us make recommendations to your program about your language proficiency and which writing class is most suitable for you

# What is the format of the Grad SLUWE?

- Two articles about a related topic and three sections of questions
  - Strategy:
    - First, preview the questions
    - Second, read the articles
    - Third, answer the questions

# What types of questions are on the Grad SLUWE?

- Part I: Comprehension
- Part II: Documentation
- Part III: Essay Writing

# Part I: Comprehension

- Two short-answer questions
  - #1 requires summarizing/paraphrasing
  - #2 requires inferring/synthesizing
- Write complete sentences but don't use quotations
  - Demonstrate grammar abilities
  - Demonstrate understanding of the points of view presented in the articles

# Part I: Comprehension (Sample)

I. Short Answers: Comprehension (10%) *Give a short, well-reasoned answer in the space provided. Do not quote from the article.*

1. From the information given in the article, how does Byrne answer the question he poses in the title, “Are We Rich If We Don’t Feed the Poor?”

Byrne’s statistics and data that focus on people who are hungry in the U.S., and also his negative view of wealthy Americans, suggest that Byrne’s opinion is no, we are not rich.

2. One of the other questions discussed in this article is the issue of who is responsible for helping reduce inequalities of income. What is Hale’s opinion?

We can infer that Hale believes that wealthy individuals should take responsibility for sharing and distributing their wealth.

# Part II: Documentation

- Three short-answer questions
  - #1 how to document sources
  - #2 why to document sources
  - #3 create a bibliography
- Use general knowledge for #1 and #2
- Use the style guide provided for #3
  - Demonstrate ability to distinguish types of sources
  - Demonstrate ability to use a style guide carefully

# Part II: Documentation (Sample)

II. Short Answers: Research Paper and Documentation (30%) *Give a short, well-reasoned answer in the space provided. You may consult the provided style guide.*

1. If you wanted to use the numbers mentioned in “Can Extreme Poverty be Eliminated?” in a research paper, what would you have to do?

If I wanted to use one of Sachs’ statistics, I would need to use an in-text citation with Sachs’ name and the page number from the article where I found the statistic. For example: (Sachs 88). I would also need to include the article on my Works Cited page.

2. If you use your own words and summarize the information in one of these articles, do you have to use a citation (in-text citation, endnotes, etc.)?

Yes, I have to use a citation, because the ideas are not mine even though I put them in my own words.

3. Make a References list for the two articles in APA style.

## References

Byrne, D. (2006, October 2). Are we rich if we don’t feed the poor? The Christian Science Monitor, p. 18.

Sachs, J. (2008). Can extreme poverty be eliminated? In R. M. Jackson (Ed.), Global issues (p. 88). New York, NY: McGraw Hill.

# Part III: Essay Writing

- One essay prompt
  - May include several guiding questions
  - Write one essay, not a list of individual answers to the guiding questions
- Argue for your position on the topic to show...
  - Your ability to organize an essay
  - Your ability to take a position
  - Your ability to support your position
  - Your ability to use citations

# Part III: Essay Writing (Sample)

## III. Long Answer: Research Essay Writing (60%)

Read the two attached articles and answer the prompt below. Use essay format and write legibly. You will be evaluated on grammar, vocabulary, organization, comprehension, and use of sources. Use one quotation from each article (two quotations total) and cite your sources appropriately with in-text citations. Expected approximate length is two typed pages, double-spaced.

*Reminder:* Plagiarism or copying parts from the articles or the prompt without acknowledging the source of the information means an automatic reduction of your grade.

### *Prompt:*

Helping the poor in the world is always a topic of discussion. Who is responsible? What roles should non-profit organizations and governments have? Summarize the specific positions in these articles. Based on the information, what is your opinion on the issue?

# Essay Writing Tips

- Write a multi-paragraph essay
- Organize your answer thoughtfully
- Include a thesis statement at the end of the introduction that clearly states your view
- Support your view with evidence from the articles, general knowledge, or personal experience
- Conclude briefly

# Reading Tips

- Demonstrate your understanding of the articles
- Pay attention to similarities, differences, and connections between the articles
- Support your own position on the topic with accurate summarizing
- Refer back to the articles in specific ways

# Grammar Tips

- Demonstrate your ability to use grammar in a meaningful way
- Focus on clarity and explaining what you mean
- Know your common grammar errors
- Save time at the end of your test to edit

# Research Tips

- Use the provided style guide to include quotations with correct parenthetical (in-text) citations
- Quotations should support your argument (thesis)

Questions?

**Good luck!**