THIS IS A SAMPLE EXAM

Writing Placement Exam

PLEASE READ THE INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE YOU BEGIN!

Choose ONE of the following topics and write a persuasive essay stating and explaining your position. Your essay should include a clear introduction, thesis, organized paragraphs, topic sentences, multiple examples and supporting evidence and a conclusion. In order to answer the question completely, consider that a full essay should be at least 300 words (or around three pages in the testing booklet.)

In addition to the elements outlined above, your essay should reflect your best attempt at grammar usage, vocabulary and critical thinking.

Remember, this exam will play a significant role in deciding your placement in SFC writing courses.

1. Public health officials point to the large amounts of sugar in the modern American diet as a reason for weight gain, leading to various health issues. Several cities, including New York, have laws against large servings of soda as a way to reduce the public’s sugar intake. Some people think this is a good way to respond to an important health issue. Others believe these laws limit personal freedom and are the wrong way to address health issues stemming from too much sugar. State your opinion and explain why you think the way you do.

2. The U.S. has recently begun allowing women to serve in combat positions in the military. This is a significant change in the roles women have played throughout history in most cultures. Do you think allowing women to serve in combat positions is a step forward for the U.S. military and for gender equality, or do you think that allowing women to fight in combat zones is a mistake. State your opinion and explain why you think the way you do.