



Tips on Submitting Writing Samples

- Writing samples are often required for admission to PhD programs in the humanities and social sciences. (Students in the sciences tend to be required to take the GRE subject tests and/or submit lab hours instead.)
- Each of the programs you are applying to will have different requirements regarding the length and subject of your writing sample. Some programs will want long writing samples; others will ask you to send a sample that does not exceed ten pages. Some programs will require writing samples that illustrate your ability to do independent research; others are less restrictive about what you can send. *Be sure to make careful notes of the writing sample requirements for each of the schools you are applying to.*
- Carefully proofread your writing sample for spelling, grammatical, and sentence-level errors.
- After proofreading, ask at least one faculty member to review your writing sample. Be sure you make any changes according to their comments before you submit it.