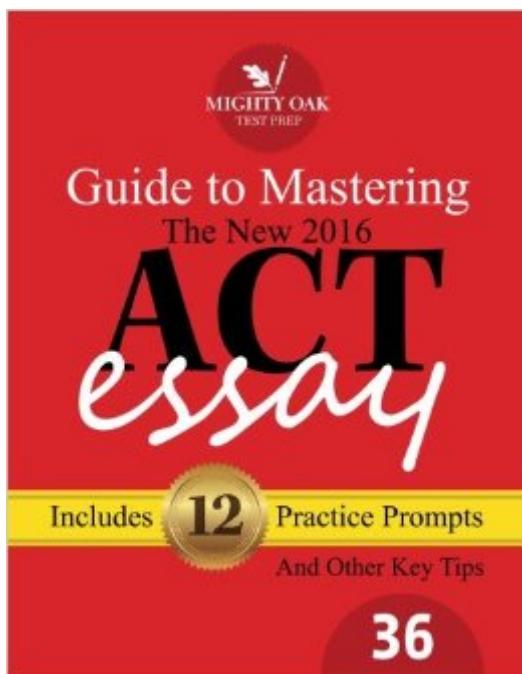


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# Mighty Oak Guide To Mastering The 2016 ACT Essay: For The New (2016-) 36-point ACT Essay



## **Synopsis**

In September of 2015, ACT dramatically revised the essay portion of the test. The old 12-point scoring system and "agree/disagree" essay prompt have been replaced by a 36-point scale and a three-perspective essay style. To ensure their own students are prepared, veteran tutors Shane Burnett and Kristin Leeson crafted this concise guide to the new ACT essay. This 40-page book includes a detailed explanation of the new essay structure and scoring, a plan for getting your highest score, and 12 realistic essay prompts in the new style. Learn the essay-writing techniques that have earned Kristin & Shane -- and some of their students -- perfect 36-point scores on the essay.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 40 pages

Publisher: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform (February 1, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1523851015

ISBN-13: 978-1523851010

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.1 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (24 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #30,077 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #8 inÂ  Books > Teens > Education & Reference > Study Aids > Test Preparation #27 inÂ  Books > Education & Teaching > Higher & Continuing Education > Test Preparation > ACT #262 inÂ  Books > Education & Teaching > Test Preparation > College & High School

## **Customer Reviews**

As a student who recently took the new ACT, this book was the answer to my prayers. It is full of tips and essay prompts that are likely going to be similar to the one on the actual test! In fact, that exact thing happened to me. Thanks to this guide, I felt extremely prepared and less stressed out than if I had not had access to this book before. Having practiced outlines from the prompts in this guide, I wrote my real ACT essay and actually felt good about it. Without it, I would not have scored as high of a score that I did on my Writing portion of the ACT. Thanks Mighty Oak!!

Fantastically brief yet thorough explanation of what is different about the new ACT, how to use this with old materials, and summary of strategy for attacking the essay. This book provides additional

essay prompts that are nicely categorized by subject area. Some colleagues say this is just a decent supplement because it's so short and helpful only to the extent it provides practice essay prompts.

This is a must-have for students preparing for the ACT Writing test. The recent Real ACT book doesn't cover the new essay format, so many students blind-sided on test day by this new approach. The instruction in this book takes the reader through the processes of approaching this type of questions. The sample test questions provide realistic questions which align with the types of topics the ACT typically covers.

As a college consultant, this guide is a fabulous tool to share with my students. It's an easy read and gives students a concrete roadmap to improving their essays for the new ACT. I love that it includes practice prompts because actually writing the essays is the best way for students to measurably improve. Thanks, Kristin and Shane. You make my job easier.

Aristotle said "For the things we have to learn before we can do them, we learn by doing them." Students looking to prepare for the new ACT essay know they must write essays. To write essays, one needs essays prompts. To have prompts, one needs this book. The dearth of prep options for the ACT Essay was not ameliorated by the release of the New Real ACT Prep Guide. The authors of this book say as much: "Unfortunately, the updated version of the book (released on Jan 20, 2016) changed only the cover art and publisher. Not one of the practice tests inside was updated to reflect the new essay format. What's worse, the book still includes a chapter of advice for the old-style essay, which is sure to confuse and mislead unsuspecting students." The level of detail and attention given to accurately replicating and anticipating future ACT essay prompts is astounding. It contains helpful pedantic goodies, such as useful vocabulary, transitions and proverbs which any student would be wise to use. In my experience teaching standardized tests, I rarely come across prep resources that precisely distill the intricacies of test-taking into a handful of potent, salient points. (That's what tutors are for, right?) But, this book does just that. I would highly recommend this book to:

- 1) students wishing to prep or polish their ACT essays
- 2) parents of said students
- 3) instructors of said students

This book is packed with helpful information and tips about the new 2016 Essay. Despite of its compact formula, it answers all my questions about the ACT essay, ranging from practical

information such as the length of the essay test, the scoring rubrics, all the way to the "cheat sheet". I appreciate all tips such as how to spend the time wisely, how to make the writing legible, how to open up and close the essay, and how to have your essay stand out. The 13 prompts (yes, there is a bonus prompt) will give students ample practice. I highly recommend this book to anyone who wants to a practical, cut-to-the-core guide for ACT essay.

worth to buy because of the recent changes in ACT writing. I bought it one week before the June test for my son, he quickly read through it and did two sample writings. He ended up doing quite well in the real writing test. so I think this book is worth it.

Shane Burnett and Kristin Leeson have created a helpful addendum to the current official ACT test prep book, the Real ACT Test Prep Guide, 3rd Edition. The official ACT book, though sporting a deceptively new cover from a new publisher this year, is actually the SAME edition as last year's. It has the same three practice tests since the first edition, plus the two practice tests added in the third edition. It does NOT have the current ACT essay question or even indicate that the ACT essay has changed or that the information in the book is flat out incorrect! And as of September 2015, the essay has changed a lot. Shane and Kristin, the tutors of Mighty Oak Test Prep of Seattle, WA, have put together a slim book with a few pages of ACT essay tips followed by 12 new-style ACT essay prompts. Four of these prompts are available for free, downloadable from the Mighty Oak Test Prep website. It's a helpful resource for students looking for more practice in the ACT essay, as sample prompts are few: The official ACT website has only one. In the next edition of this guide, it would be very helpful to have more sample scored essays, especially at the higher end. The guide does have one, but the authors have not included a prompt page and the topic itself, standardized score value, is not representative of typical ACT essay questions. Another improvement I'd recommend for the next edition would be to include blank essay pages for each essay question so that students can write in the book to keep their essays organized and view their progress easily. (The authors did include essay paper in the downloadable four essay prompt pdfs.) As they note in the book, it's important to use the official ACT essay paper in order to get used to the format and accurately gauge essay length. Though some things change, a long essay is still a good essay on the ACT.

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