

Accelerating Globalization (Sample Essay Prompt 1)

Only a few hundred years ago, communication between countries on opposite ends of the globe was painstakingly slow or non-existent. Most people knew little about distant lands, peoples and cultures. What they thought they knew was frequently erroneous or ill conceived. Within the past hundred years, however, the pace of globalization has accelerated rapidly. Today travel across the globe in less than 24 hours is a real possibility for many people. Individuals and nations can instantly communicate with one another across great distances. For better or worse, the world has become more connected than was ever imaginable before, and it continues to become more connected every day. Has globalization made the world a better or a worse place?

Read and carefully consider these perspectives. Each suggests a particular way of thinking about the effects of globalization.

Perspective 1

Globalization, despite its lustrous promises, has created more problems than it has solved. It has allowed rich countries to get richer at the expense of poorer countries, and it has increased, not decreased, the number of armed conflicts in the world.

Perspective 2

The world is undoubtedly a better place today because of globalization. It has allowed critical resources to be distributed to the governments and people that need them the most.

Perspective 3

While I celebrate the productive exchange of cultures globalization has facilitated, I worry about how globalization is homogenizing those cultures. Take languages—do we really want to live in a world where one day everyone only speaks only one global language?

Essay Task

Write a unified, coherent essay in which you evaluate multiple perspectives on the impact of globalization on the world. In your essay, be sure to:

- analyze and evaluate the perspectives given
- state and develop your own perspective on the issue
- 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.

ACT Essay Pre-Writing

Spend less than 10 minutes on these steps, but please don't skip them!

Step One

Get out your phone. Set the timer to start right when you start reading the prompt. Read every word of the prompt carefully. Stop the timer when you're done. How long did that take?

- As you read: Circle words you don't know. Use root words and context clues to figure them out. Underline key words and phrases. They should show up in your own writing.

Step Two

At the bottom of the page, **write your perspective** on the issue. Can you write it without personal pronouns?

- Your perspective will likely be similar to one of the perspectives given. That's fine. However, the most impressive essays will offer a new perspective.

Step Three

- Put a star by the perspective you most agree with.
- Put a slash by the perspective you only partly agree with.
- Put an x by the perspective you disagree with.

Step Four

On the back of the paper, write a quick outline. I would use this format:

- I. Intro: restate the issue using some of the same language as the prompt itself
 - a. Thesis: Write your perspective on the issue
- II. Support your perspective
 - a. Reason 1
 - b. Reason 2
 - i. In one of your examples, address the perspective that is most similar to yours.
- III. Address the perspective that differs from yours slightly.
 - a. State why this perspective is valid but...
 - b. Point out its flaws
- IV. Address the perspective that greatly differs from yours.
 - a. State why this perspective is flawed
 - b. State another reason this perspective is flawed
- V. Conclusion
 - a. Return to support for your perspective (very important!)
 - b. End with a hypothetical situation on the issue

If you're running out of time, **do not cut the conclusion. It's probably best to cut or skimp on the second body paragraph...or at least write a 2-sentence conclusion.

**Just remember: the three things you have to do are 1. Show support for your perspective; 2. Counterattack the opposing perspective(s); and 3. Demonstrate organizational skills (intro, body, conclusion).

Accelerating Globalization

- I. Intro: mass communication has affected globalization greatly over the last 100 years
 - a. Globalization allows cultures from all over the world to learn more about one another, bettering communications and enhancing our tolerance and respect for all.
- II. Support for my perspective
 - a. “World at our fingertips” – experience other cultures
 - b. Opens doors for respectful and safe dialogue
 - c. Allows critical resources to be given to those in need
- III. Other perspective
 - a. Poor communication leads to poor relationships
 - i. Some claim globalization supports the rich and hurts the poor
 - b. However, good outweighs the bad when people are helped/relationships mended
 - c. Cannot let fear hinder globalization
- IV. Other perspective
 - a. Languages not likely to be obliterated
 - b. Diverse cultures celebrated, not homogenized
- V. Conclusion: globalization betters relationships and cross-cultural respect and tolerance