



ACT Essay Lesson


TUTORING
MACHINES

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Note From The Author

Kimani “The Machine” Williams, PhD

Ever since I have known myself, I have been tutoring my friends and fellow students in academia. I have been blessed with a knack for simplifying what seems complicated to students. After high school, I left my home country of Jamaica to go to Macalester College, a small liberal arts college in Minnesota.

After four wonderful years of Minnesota in the frigid tundra, it was time to return to a climate more favorable to a Jamaican, so I decided to further my studies by joining the PhD program in Electrical Engineering at the University of California, Santa Barbara. While working on my doctorate, I started tutoring part-time for a large test prep company. It so happens, that I am phenomenal at dramatically improving students’ test scores. Soon, I was tutoring so many students that I began to feel more like a full-time tutor and less like a PhD student.

After completing my PhD in Electrical Engineering, I decided to fully devote myself to my passion for teaching and tutoring, which led me to start my own company, Tutoring Machines, LLC. In my own microcosmic way, I am changing the world, one student at a time as I help students reach their goals through higher education.



In Person Communication

In today's world, it seems that in person communication is in steady decline. With the rise of digital technology, many interactions or relationships are facilitated through electronic devices instead of in person. Corporations participate in web conferences. Students access coursework information using web platforms instead of from teachers in the traditional classroom setting. People interact through social media instead of meeting up somewhere. As technology gets more sophisticated, people are readily embracing the digital methods of communication. Is this trend harmful? Do the benefits outweigh the negatives as our interpersonal communications are increasingly done online instead of in person? In this current technological age, it is worth considering the effects of decreasing in person communication.

Read and carefully consider these perspectives. Each suggests a particular way of thinking about the effects of decreasing in person communication.

Perspective One

As our methods of communication migrate to online platforms, our connection to each other is diminished. As a result, we have become people with limited interpersonal and communication skills.

Perspective Two

Our in person communication may be on the decline, but our connections to each other have never been more impactful and powerful. We use digital technology to communicate with more people than before and at a faster rate.

Perspective Three

Communication over digital platforms has led to messages being lost in translation due to lack of visual cues from body language and tone of voice. Many conflicts arise because our digital communication is often misunderstood by the other party.

Essay Task

Write a unified, coherent essay in which you evaluate multiple perspectives on the effects of decreasing in person communication. 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.

