

H9

ACT essay:

Ideas and analysis	6	
Development and support	6	
Organization	6	
Language use	6	
Total:	24	
Divide by 4 to get average		

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Examiner 1 score		Examiner 2 score	
Total:			

Form 31E

ACT® Writing Test Prompt

Face-to-Face Communication

Although there are still occasions when it is required, face-to-face communication seems to be decreasing. In the age of digital technology, we conduct many of our relationships through our devices instead of in person. Coworkers send e-mails instead of holding meetings. Students access assignments and lessons online that teachers once delivered in class. Friends interact through social media instead of getting together (and, sometimes, even while they are together). Perhaps our apparent preference for digital methods of communication is merely a sign of technological progress. But could this trend be harmful? What do we gain, and what do we lose, as our interpersonal relationships are increasingly conducted online instead of in person? In the digital age, it is worth considering the implications of decreasing face-to-face communication.

Read and carefully consider these perspectives. Each suggests a particular way of thinking about the implications of decreasing face-to-face communication.

Perspective One

As our methods of communication become more impersonal, our connections to each other weaken. As a result, we become self-centered, unsympathetic people.

Perspective Two

Our face-to-face communication may be decreasing, but our connections to others have never been richer. After all, we use our tools to communicate faster—and with more people—than ever before.

Perspective Three

The absence of body language and tone of voice results in regular misunderstandings. Many of our personal and even societal conflicts occur because our digital communication is commonly misinterpreted by others.

Essay Task

Write a unified, coherent essay about the implications of decreasing face-to-face communication. In your essay, be sure to:

- clearly state your own perspective on the issue and analyze the relationship between your perspective and at least one other perspective
- develop and support your ideas with reasoning and examples
- organize your ideas clearly and logically
- communicate your ideas effectively in standard written English

Your perspective may be in full agreement with any of those given, in partial agreement, or completely different.