The extended response is the portion of the GED® test similar to an essay. There is one extended response and it’s in the Reasoning Through Language Arts (RLA) section.

The extended response makes up about 20% of your total score for the RLA test.

You’ll have 45 minutes to write the RLA extended response. In that time, try to write at least four to seven paragraphs, with several sentences in each paragraph.

This can quickly add up to 300 – 500 words.

**Guidelines**

- **Read** and analyze the arguments presented in a pair of passages.
- **Look** at evidence for two opposing points of view and develop an argument around which side has the stronger evidence.
- **Use** evidence from the passages to support your argument.
- **Explain** how the evidence from the passages supports your argument.

**Do**

- Develop an argument based on your analysis of the passages.
- Make sure that most of what you write reflects your own thinking.

**Don’t**

- Do not simply summarize the points made in the passages.
- Do not just offer your opinion on the given topic.