DVC ACCUPLACER WRITING PLACEMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score not high enough</th>
<th>3000</th>
<th>98</th>
<th>118</th>
<th>122</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No placement</td>
<td>Intro to College Writing</td>
<td>College Writing Development</td>
<td>Freshman Composition</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On the pages that follow there are descriptions of each of the eight WritePlacer score points followed by two sample essays that were assigned the indicated score. Studying these sample essays will point out the elements considered during the scoring process.

**Description of No Placement**

A response in this category demonstrates no mastery of on-demand essay writing; the response is severely flawed by many or most of the following weaknesses:

- Lacks a viable point of view on the issue
- Demonstrates no awareness of audience
- Fails to present a main idea
- Demonstrates flawed reasoning
- Demonstrates no complexity of thought
- Is disorganized and/or disjointed
- Displays fundamental errors in word choice, usage and sentence structure
- Contains pervasive spelling, grammar, punctuation and mechanical errors

Shown below is a sample essay that received a score of No Placement. The annotations explain why the essay received the indicated score.

**Sample Essay**

The question is can any obstacle or disadvantage be turned into something good? Yes it can, because even in the story he couldn’t get in because of the chair and the guy tells him if it’s a drama, “Smash it and if it’s a comedy fall over it. But when you think about it, if a girl was guilty and was pleading to say on how she was innocent and they catch her in a lie its practically the same thing. But that’s not the point but you can change a negative into a positive someway.
Description of Placement 98

A response in this category demonstrates little mastery of on-demand essay writing; the response is flawed by one or more of the following weaknesses:

- Presents a vague or limited point of view on the issue
- Demonstrates little awareness of audience
- Attempts to develop the main idea though that attempt is inadequate
- Demonstrates weak critical thinking with little complexity of thought or with flawed reasoning
- Provides inappropriate or insufficient examples, reasons, or other evidence to support its position
- Is poorly organized and/or focused or demonstrates serious problems with coherence or progression of ideas
- Displays limited word choice and little sentence variety
- Contains many errors in mechanical conventions of usage, sentence structure, grammar, spelling and punctuation

Shown below is a sample essay that received a Placement of 98.

Sample Essay

I do believe that any obstacle or disadvantage can be turned into something good. I believe this because people learn many things from their mistakes and that’s the only way. In the example that is provided, the actor is obviously confused. The director makes a good point on how to work around it, and in a case where they make use of the chair that’s in the way, which helps make it funny, exciting, or depressing. In a play or musical of any type, it adds meaning. Not only does an obstacle or disadvantage get turned into something good, but it can discover new things. Whenever any situation happens, such as in this case, I’d laugh if it’s funny, cry if it’s dramatic, make a joke out of it, or act like it didn’t happen. Just keep in mind that the purpose of life is to learn from mistakes, which can turn into something good.

Description of Placement 118

An essay in this category demonstrates adequate mastery of on-demand essay writing although it will have lapses in quality. A typical essay

- Develops a viable point of view on the issue
- May stray from the audience and purpose but is able to refocus
• Demonstrates competent critical thinking, using adequate examples, reasons, and other
evidence to support its position

• Is generally organized and focused but could lack coherence and logical progression of ideas

• Exhibits adequate but inconsistent control of language

• Demonstrates some variety in sentence structure

• Contains some minor errors in sentence structure, grammar, spelling and punctuation

Shown below is a sample essay that received a Placement of 118.

**Sample Essay**

In my lifetime, I have seen many ways an obstacle or disadvantage can be turned into a good thing. Sometimes when something bad happens, it can prepare you for the future obstacles to come. For example, if a person gets a serious burn they would panic and not know what to do. If the same thing happen again, the person would be more prepared and have knowledge from the previous experience. If someone is on crutches, about to open the door, would you open the door for them? If you are the person on crutches you would be at a disadvantage to others. But this can be turned into a good thing. You now have someone to open the door for you, and this is a good way to meet people and make friends. Sometimes when things aren’t going your way, you have to improvise a little. For example, before a basketball game you see that the other team is much taller than your team. The coach might have only made up plays for a short team. The other team is tall, but slow. You use your speed to win the game. In the blink of an eye, you’ve changed a disadvantage into a good thing. The best comedians always turn an obstacle or disadvantage into a good thing. If the audience is not laughing at his performance, then he has to change what he’s doing. This obstacle about the audience not laughing he could make a joke about, then making the obstacle into a good thing.

**Description of Placement 122**

An essay in this category demonstrates consistent mastery of on-demand essay writing, although it may have occasional minor errors. A typical essay

• Effectively and insightfully develops a point of view on the issue

• Addresses an appropriate audience and demonstrates a clear purpose for writing in the thesis statement

• Demonstrates outstanding critical thinking, using appropriate examples, reasons, and other evidence to support its position
Sample Essay

I believe that an obstacle or disadvantage can be turned into something good. Lance Armstrong, the most successful cyclist of all time, had to overcome cancer before achieving such greatness. Another possible example is Louis Armstrong. Louis was born to a single mother and lived a rough life. He was convicted of a crime and was sent to prison which is where he learned how to play the trumpet. Before he was a seven time Tour de France champion, Lance Armstrong had to overcome cancer, a very extreme obstacle to overcome. Lance was diagnosed with testicular cancer and by the time the doctors found it, it had already spread to his brain, lungs, and other intrinsic organs. After numerous surgeries, Lance was given a fifty percent chance to live. Armstrong did not give up. After months of treatment and another surgery, the doctors found absolutely no cancer in his body. Within a year, Lance was back on the bike. He went on to win seven Tour de Frances in a row and he remains one of the greatest cyclists, if not the greatest cyclist of all time. Louis Armstrong, one of the greatest Jazz trumpet players of all time, also had to overcome difficult obstacles in his life before achieving greatness. Louis was born to a single mother. They were poverty stricken, and were basically stuck with nothing. As a boy Louis was convicted of a crime and sent to prison. While serving his time, Louis learned how to play the trumpet from a fellow in-mate. Louis immediately fell in love with music. He formed a jazz group when he was released from prison and they started playing at local clubs and bars. On one fateful day, a record company representative heard the group and immediately wanted to sign them. If it weren’t for prison Louis might not have ever even picked up a trumpet. From these two examples, we can clearly see that obstacles or disadvantages can become something good. Both Louis and Lance overcame extremely difficult obstacles and became some of the best there ever was. They knew that anything was possible and were not discouraged by hardships.