Understanding the CATW Directions

The CATW writing directions will always ask you to:

• Read a short passage.
  o Look for the main idea of passage.
  o Find the important points that support the main idea.

• Write an essay in response to the passage.
  o Organize your ideas logically, with an introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion.
  o Make clear transitions between your ideas.

In the essay, you will:

• Summarize what you read, including the main idea and important supporting points.
  o Use your own words to explain the passage.
  o Include the main idea and the important supporting points in the passage.

• Respond to one of the author’s important ideas using your own personal experience and knowledge of the topic.
  o Choose an important idea from the reading and explain your point of view about this idea thoroughly.
  o Support your points in your essay with information and examples from:
    ▪ what you have read or seen in a movie or on television,
    ▪ what you learned in school, and/or
    ▪ your personal experience.
  o Make sure your examples relate to the topic.
  o Refer to the reading in your response.

• Read your essay over and make any changes that make your ideas clearer and your grammar, spelling and punctuation more correct.
  o Make sure that your writing is clear and easy to understand.
  o Remove as many grammar, punctuation, and spelling mistakes as you can.

You will have 90 minutes to write your essay.

Excerpted from: CAT in Writing: Exercise 2