GUIDELINES FOR WRITING
THE REGENTS ESSAY

1. PLAN THE ESSAY

Use the space provided on the front of the essay booklet for making brief notes. Write down your ideas for developing the central idea so that you can choose the best ideas, see where you need additional ideas, and decide how to order/organize the ideas. Remember, the instructions for the essay focus on:

- Developing and stating a central idea
- Organizing to show an overall plan
- Dealing with the assigned topic
- Avoiding errors

2. WRITE THE ESSAY

- Use every other line of the booklet
- Use pen \textit{(required)}
- Use this suggested time frame:
  - 5-10 minutes to choose the topic and plan the essay
  - 5 minutes to write the introduction
  - 30 minutes to write the support paragraphs and the conclusion
  - 15 minutes to proofread and edit

3. SAMPLE REGENTS' ESSAY TOPICS
\textit{(taken from the list of 456 approved topics)}

- Should both parents assume equal responsibility for child rearing?

- "The United States should greatly increase its support of mass transit systems." Agree or disagree.

- "College students benefit from having to earn at least part of their tuition." Agree or disagree.

- How has the study of the natural sciences affected your understanding of the way you approach day-to-day living? Explain.