Directions

Take a few minutes to think about each of the topics below. Then produce a clear essay in response to ONE of them. Read the question carefully to make sure that you are responding to it exactly as requested, but do not copy down the question into your essay. Be sure your essay has an Introduction, Body and a Conclusion (Beginning, Middle and an End). When you are done, read your finished essay carefully, checking for spelling, punctuation, and complete sentences. You have **35 minutes** to complete the essay. Please choose one of the following topics:

1. Should local governments provide funding for professional sports facilities (e.g., HSBC Arena, new Football Stadium)? Take a side and support your position with two or three persuasive arguments.

2. Tabloid “newspapers” such as The Enquirer and The Star are considered sensational and even silly by most people. Yet The Enquirer has a weekly circulation of 25 million. In a well-organized essay, discuss two or three reasons that people read such publications.

3. What two pieces of advice would you give a teenager who is considering quitting high school?

4. In the past fifty years, the role of women in society has changed significantly. Compare or contrast the role of today's woman with that of her mother or grandmother. In your essay be sure to cite at least three points of comparison or contrast.