

# GRE Retake Decision Worksheet

Evidence-Based Retake Analysis • Updated Dec 2025

## SECTION 1: CURRENT PERCENTILE ASSESSMENT

Your current Verbal percentile

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Your current Quantitative percentile

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Your current Writing percentile

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Target program typical percentile ranges (research required)

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## SECTION 2: GAP ANALYSIS

Percentile gap in priority section:

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Is gap 10+ percentile points?

Yes  No

Is gap in section your field prioritizes?

Yes  No

## SECTION 3: IMPROVEMENT PROBABILITY

Previous preparation intensity (1-5 scale):

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Specific weaknesses identified?

Yes  No

Time available for focused preparation:

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Tip: If you have less than 8 weeks, prioritize high-impact application components instead of a full retake plan.

Realistic improvement estimate (percentile points):

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Systematic Framework for Your Retake Decision

## SECTION 4: OPPORTUNITY COST

What else could this time strengthen?

- Research experience
- Publication/conference presentation
- Recommendation letter relationships
- Statement of purpose development

## DECISION FRAMEWORK

Retake recommended if:
✓ Gap is <b>10+</b> percentile points in the <b>priority section</b>
✓ Clear improvement strategy identified
✓ Time available ( <b>8+ weeks</b> ) for preparation
✓ No higher-value uses of time available

  

Don't retake if:
✗ Gap is <b>&lt;5</b> percentile points
✗ Already tested twice with minimal improvement
✗ Percentiles already <b>85th+</b> in all sections
✗ Other application components need more attention

**Interpretation note:** Decimal precision is largely meaningless in interpretation. Focus on the band you are in, not tiny differences.

**Reminder:** Safety for admission  $\neq$  safety for funding. Research profile and fit can matter more than small percentile differences.