

SAT ESSAY TIPS



Before the exam:

- Understand the scoring: You are scored out of 24 on three categories: Reading, Analysis and Writing.
- Study sample essays and SAT Essay prompts
 - Time yourself writing at least one essay (ideally two) before the actual test. Ask someone to grade it. We have tutors available who can look over it. Contact us if you need help!
 - If you can't find someone to grade your essay, you don't need to practice writing out entire essays; instead, read the prompt and try to come up with an outline in 10-15 minutes.



During the exam (50 minutes):

- Read for 7-8 minutes (ideally) - maximum 10 minutes
- Try to Understand:
 - Context: background, situation in which writing occurs (date of publishing)
 - Purpose: what writer/speaker hopes to accomplish; issue, problem or situation that prompts the speaker or writer to write.
- Make an outline with ideally 3 rhetorical strategies (if you have 2 or 4 it's okay!) and plan out what you'll write in each body paragraph.



Recognizing 3 Different Types of Appeals:



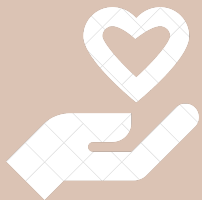
- **Ethos**- how people feel about the speaker's credibility/ trustworthiness/likability; Statistics, examples, anecdotes, etc increase credibility as they show the writer knows what he is talking about.

- Ask yourself: What makes me want to believe the author?



- **Logos**- appeal to readers logic/clear thinking; presenting facts, ideas, plans, details, arguments, reasons, examples, statistics.

- Ask yourself: What proof makes the argument more believable?

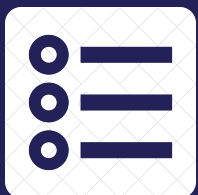


- **Pathos**- appeal to emotions, interests, and values; Mythos- appeal to commonly shared values. (ex. Love of country, hard work leads to success. etc.)

- Ask yourself: What feelings are convincing me to sway in favor of the argument?

*****Strategies to look out for: Statistics, sense of reason, tone, antithesis, examples, inclusive pronouns, anecdotes, allusions, rhetorical questions, repetition, parallelism, diction, imagery, etc. *****

3 ways to organize the essay:



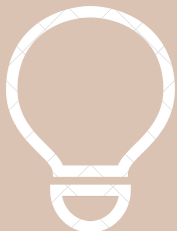
- **Cause/effect** - explain all the strategies and then their effects in next paragraph .
- **Chronologically** - According to the chronology of the article .
- **Rhetorical strategies**- assign one paragraph per each rhetorical strategy you find.

Organizing each paragraph:

- Introduction paragraph:
 - Provide context
 - What's the situation, issue that prompts the writer to write this article?
 - Who is the intended audience? Who is he/she speaking to?
 - State author's purpose of writing the article.
 - Write a thesis statement which connects the why with how does he accomplish this purpose perhaps by listing the rhetorical strategies used in a concise way.
- Body paragraphs:
 - Topic sentence explaining the point of this paragraph
 - Most common way is introducing one way author accomplishes to persuade his audience.
 - Give textual evidence (quotes and paraphrasing according to what is needed)
 - Explain the effects of the evidence
 - Pay attention to the point of view of the write, the message given and the intended audience.
 - Connect back to the thesis
- Conclusion:
 - Have one even if it's 2 lines.
 - Restate the thesis but NOT with identical words!
 - Keep it concise.



General Tips:



- DO Keep it to the point.
- DO spend time outlining before writing.
- DO Memorize a list of strategies
- DO NOT be repetitive!
- DO NOT worry about minor errors.

***Leave so me time to edit but if you can't, it's fine! They know at most this is a student's first draft but these essays are generally graded holistically. Don't stress, do your best and forget the rest!