

## Tips for Acing the Writing Section of the SAT

1. Become familiar with the rubric for the writing section of the SAT.
2. Be prepared with examples that you can use prior to taking the essay portion of the test.
3. Include TWO examples in the essay. Write your first example on page one and your second example on page two. Develop both examples FULLY.
4. Use five elevated vocabulary words. (Be sure to use them correctly.)
5. Remember to organize your essay. This essay lend itself well to a four-paragraph essay.
  - Paragraph one should include your thesis
  - Paragraph two should have your first example
  - Paragraph three should have a transition and your second example
  - Paragraph 4 should include your conclusion
6. Write two full pages – your introduction and paragraph one on page one, paragraph two and your conclusion on page two
7. Remember to answer the question, instead of just responding to the stimulus.
8. Remember the qualities of a good persuasive essay: Good reasoning, solid support, an interesting and consistent point of view, logical organization, and effective use of language
9. Use the following pacing guide:
  - Three minutes for pre-writing (70% of the highest scoring writers pre-write)
  - Two minutes for writing an introduction/thesis
  - 18 minutes for writing the body (two example paragraphs)
  - Two minutes for the conclusion



## Extra Tips for Advanced Writers (that's you!)

1. Write like a reader – think about the person who will be scoring your essay
2. Use natural language – avoid language that you wouldn't ordinarily use
3. Use strong verbs – try to minimize the use of the word "be"
4. Write with personality and intelligence
5. Use personal and concrete nouns – Instead of "my opinion is..." write "many people agree that..."
6. Minimize jargon and slang
7. Eliminate wordiness
8. Don't state the obvious
9. Eliminate clichés
10. Vary your sentence structure and length
11. Neatly cross out sentences that you want to eliminate
12. Explain yourself. If you think your paragraph is too short, add the word "because" and keep going!