

## The SAT Essay Scoring Guide

<p><b>Score of 6</b> An essay in this category is outstanding, demonstrating clear and consistent mastery, although it may have a few minor errors. A typical essay</p>	<p><b>Score of 5</b> An essay in this category is effective, demonstrating reasonably consistent mastery, although it will have occasional errors or lapses in quality. A typical essay</p>	<p><b>Score of 4</b> An essay in this category is competent, demonstrating adequate mastery, although it will have lapses in quality. A typical essay</p>
Effectively and insightfully develops a point of view on the issue and demonstrates outstanding critical thinking, using clearly appropriate examples, reasons, and other evidence to support its position.	Effectively develops a point of view on the issue and demonstrates strong critical thinking, generally using appropriate examples, reasons, and other evidence to support its position	Develops a point of view on the issue and demonstrates competent critical thinking, using adequate examples, reasons, and other evidence to support its position
Is well organized and clearly focused, demonstrating clear coherence and smooth progression of ideas	Is well organized and focused, demonstrating coherence and progression of ideas	Is generally organized and focused, demonstrating some coherence and progression of ideas
Exhibits skillful use of language, using a varied accurate, and apt vocabulary	Exhibits facility in use of language, using appropriate vocabulary	Exhibits adequate but inconsistent facility in the use of language, using generally appropriate vocabulary
Demonstrates meaningful variety in sentence structure	Demonstrates variety in sentence structure	Demonstrates some variety in sentence structure
Is free of most errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics	Is generally free of most errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics	Has some errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics
<p><b>Score of 3</b> An essay in this category is inadequate, but demonstrates developing mastery, and is marked by one or more of the following weaknesses</p>	<p><b>Score of 2</b> An essay in this category is seriously limited, demonstrating little mastery, and is flawed by one or more of the following weaknesses</p>	<p><b>Score of 1</b> An essay in this category is fundamentally lacking, demonstrating very little or no mastery, and is severely flawed by one or more of the following weaknesses</p>
Develops a point of view on the issue, demonstrating some critical thinking, but may do so inconsistently or use inadequate examples, reasons, or other evidence to support its position	Develops a point of view on the issue that is vague or seriously limited, demonstrating weak critical thinking, providing inappropriate or insufficient examples, reasons, or other evidence to support its position	Develops no viable point of view on the issue, or provides little or no evidence to support its position
Is limited in its organization or focus, or may demonstrate some lapses in coherence or progression of ideas	Is poorly organized and/or focused, or demonstrates serious problems with coherence or progression of ideas	Is disorganized or unfocused, resulting in a disjointed or incoherent essay
Displays developing facility in the use of language, but sometimes uses weak vocabulary or inappropriate word choice	Displays very little facility in the use of language, using very limited vocabulary or incorrect word choice	Displays fundamental errors in vocabulary
Lacks variety or demonstrates problems in sentence structure	Demonstrates frequent problems in sentence structure	Demonstrates severe flaws in sentence structure
Contains an accumulation of errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics	Contains errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics so serious that meaning is somewhat obscured	Contains pervasive errors in grammar, usage, or mechanics that persistently interfere with meaning

Essays not written on the essay assignment will receive a score of zero.