

## SAT writing brainstorming activity

In order to help you be more prepared for the essay section of the SAT, we are going to brainstorm some vocabulary and writing examples that you will be able to use in your essay responses. If you look at your “Tips for Acing the Writing Section of the SAT” handout, you’ll notice two key suggestions:

1. be prepared with topics and examples prior to taking the essay test
2. use five elevated vocabulary words

This brainstorming activity is designed to help you tackle those two suggestions.

### Examples

This section is designed to help with your examples. Typically, the essay prompt has to do with human behavior, experience, or values. It does not require any prior knowledge in any particular subject area. There is usually a quote or stimulus, followed by a question. In order to get you thinking about several different examples, four themes have been chosen that are likely to show up on the SAT writing section. For each theme, please choose a personal example (something that has happened to you or a current event), an historical example (something that has happened in the past), and a literary example (something that has happened in a written work you have read).

#### Theme 1: tough decisions

Personal example:

Historical example:

Literary example:

#### Theme 2: Someone who has acted honorably/someone you admire

Personal example:

Historical example:

Literary example:

**Theme 3: Protection from harm**

Personal example:

Historical example:

Literary example:

**Theme 4: Freedom of speech**

Personal example:

Historical example:

Literary example:

**Vocabulary**

After you have chosen examples for your response, choose five vocabulary words that you can use to “spice up” your writing. Choose words that naturally go with the examples you have written. For example, if you are going to discuss Rosa Parks in one of your examples, you may want to use any of the following words: intolerance, discrimination, or boycott.

1. \_\_\_\_\_:  
Definition: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_:  
Definition: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_:  
Definition: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_:  
Definition: \_\_\_\_\_  
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5. \_\_\_\_\_:  
Definition: \_\_\_\_\_  
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