**Based On SAT Writing Test #5 (IVY)**

**Vocabulary**

1. **Heir - a person who will legally receive money, property, or a title from another person, especially an older member of the same family, when that other person dies.**

Sentence example - Despite having a large family, they still had no son and heir.

1. **Confiscation - the**[**act**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/act)**of**[**confiscating**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/confiscate)**a**[**possession**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/possession)**from someone (= taking it away as a**[**punishment**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/punish)**) or an**[**example**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/example)**of this.**

Sentence example - There was a [record](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/record) [number](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/number) of confiscations by [customs](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/customs) [officers](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/officer) last [year](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/year).

1. **Barn - a**[**large**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/large)[**building**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/building)**on a**[**farm**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/farm)**in which**[**animals**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/animal)**or**[**hay**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/hay)**(=**[**dried**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/dried)[**grass**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/grass)**) and**[**grain**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/grain)**are**[**kept**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/kept)**.**

Sentence example - The escaped prisoners lay up in a barn for a few weeks, until the search had been called off.

1. **Circumstance - a fact or event that makes a situation the way it is.**

Sentence example - I think she coped very well under the circumstances.

1. **Demolish - to completely destroy a building, especially in order to use the land for something else.**

Sentence example - A number of houses were demolished so that the supermarket could be built.

1. **Interpretation - an explanation or opinion of what something means.**

Sentence example - It is difficult for many people to accept a literal interpretation of the Bible.

1. **Avalanche - a large amount of ice, snow, and rock falling quickly down the side of a mountain.**

Sentence example - Just remember to take responsibility and arm yourself with proper backcountry gear, and check the avalanche conditions.

1. **Disastrous - extremely bad or unsuccessful.**

Sentence example – Such a war would be disastrous for the country.

1. **Gaffe - a remark or action that is a social mistake and not considered polite.**

Sentence example – I made a real gaffe - I called his new wife "Judy", which is the name of his ex-wife.

1. **Saccharine - too sweet or too polite.**

Sentence example – I don't trust her, with her saccharine smiles.

1. **Unpretentious - simple and/or sincere; not pretentious.**

Sentence example – The food is delicious and unpretentious.

1. **Confront - to face, meet, or deal with a difficult situation or person.**

Sentence example – As she left the court, she was confronted by angry crowds who tried to block her way.

1. **Be stumped - to be unable to answer a question or solve a problem because it is too difficult.**

Sentence example – Scientists are stumped by this mystery virus.