



## A+ Test Prep and Tutoring Newsletter

January, 2009

### In This Issue

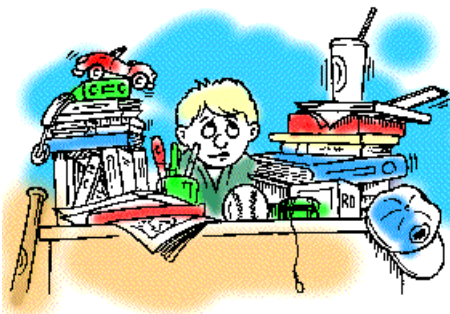
[What are Perceptual Processing and Executive Functioning?](#)

[Update on SAT Score Choice](#)

[Featured Student: Andrea Kaplan](#)

[Featured Tutor: Pam Milligan](#)

### What are Perceptual Processing & Executive Functioning?



by Jill E. Adaman, Ph.D.

Imagine the following scenario: It's the first day of school, and Mrs. Smith is showing her second-grade students how to arrange their school supplies inside their desks. She draws a picture on the blackboard to demonstrate the proper placement for pencils, erasers, crayons, rulers, and other supplies. After a few minutes, most of the students' desks begin to resemble the teacher's diagram. But several students encounter difficulty. Johnny's supplies have been carefully arranged on top of the desk, instead of inside it. Jennifer's supplies are crammed into the left side of her desk, while the right side remains nearly empty. David's desk contains a heap of jumbled supplies with no apparent organizational scheme whatsoever.

Although all three children have trouble arranging school supplies in the desk, the causes of their problems are quite different. Johnny and Jennifer show deficits in perceptual processing (the ability to interpret information they see or hear), while David shows deficits in executive functioning (the ability to manage complex information and carry out goal-directed behavior). To help each child, we need to understand the nature of their deficits and what kinds of compensatory strategies can help in each case. [Click here to read the full article.](#)

*Jill E. Adaman, Ph.D. is a licensed psychologist in private practice in Bryn Mawr, PA. Since 1994, she has specialized in the assessment of learning disabilities and ADHD. For additional information, please contact Dr. Adaman at 610-449-4014 or visit her website at [www.drjilladaman.com](http://www.drjilladaman.com).*

### Update on SAT Score Choice Option



In the September 2008 issue of this newsletter, we reported on the College Board's new policy called "Score Choice" which allows students to report to colleges only their best overall SAT score from a given test date.

### Featured Student



**Andrea Kaplan**

A+ Test Prep & Tutoring is proud to congratulate Andrea Kaplan, a senior at Plymouth Whitmarsh High School, for receiving a nearly perfect score of 2390 on her SAT! Prior to taking the PSAT in her junior year, Andrea was tutored by Barbara Lommer in both Critical Reading and Writing. As a result of her PSAT scores, Andrea was named a National Merit Semi-Finalist, and she is also a Semi-Finalist in the Coca-Cola Scholars Program.

At Plymouth Whitmarsh High School, Andrea keeps busy as President of the National Honor Society and President of DECA, a business and marketing club; for the last two years, she has competed on the international level in DECA competitions. She is also excited to be Dance Captain of her school's upcoming production of "Little Shop of Horrors." And, as if all that weren't enough, this month Andrea will be participating in a foreign exchange program where she will live with a family near Madrid, Spain for two weeks!

Andrea has applied to The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of Virginia, University of Maryland, Emory, and the University of Richmond, and has been accepted to Penn State. We know that Andrea will continue to excel at whatever college is lucky enough to get her. Congratulations to both student and tutor alike on a truly outstanding job!

There has been a bit of a backlash to this development as reported in the December 15, 2008 issue of Newsweek: colleges can opt out of Score Choice and insist that all SAT scores be reported to them. Stanford, Cornell, Pomona, the University of Pennsylvania, and the University of Southern California will demand that all SAT scores be reported to them in next fall's crop of applications.

Other prestigious colleges such as Harvard and the University of Chicago will honor Score Choice, while other schools say that students are often actually doing themselves a disservice by singling out one testing date since many colleges already cherry-pick the best individual scores of Math, Critical Reading, and Writing from among all testing dates to come up with the highest scores for each student. Read more about this controversy by following [this link](#).

**School and Community Partnerships**



A+ Test Prep and Tutoring provides in-home One-to-One Test Prep and Academic Subject Tutoring throughout the Delaware Valley.

We also partner with schools and social service agencies to provide test preparation, remedial reading and math, and study skills courses to students throughout the region. Courses offered include SAT, ACT, SSAT, and ISEE. For more information please contact me at 215.886.9188.

Daniel Ascher, M.Ed.  
President

Thank you for your interest in A+ and our newsletter. Feel free to contact us at 215-886-9188 or on the web at [www.aplustutoring.com](http://www.aplustutoring.com).

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**Sincerely,**

Daniel Ascher, M. Ed.  
President  
A+ Test Prep and Tutoring

**Featured Tutor**



Although she prefers to stay away from the limelight, Pam Milligan, a veteran A+ tutor of almost nine years, deserves recognition among our team of excellent tutors. Pam tutors a wide variety of topics: SAT and ACT verbal prep, history, biology, study skills, reading, and the Wilson Reading Program. In addition to tutoring these subjects one-on-one, she also teaches in two of A+'s group after-school programs and trains newly hired verbal tutors.

Pam has a B.A. in Organizational Management from Eastern University, and has taken graduate courses in secondary education at Arcadia University. Prior to working for A+, she taught for three years at the E.S. Miller School in Philadelphia where she worked with at-risk students. Pam loved the challenge of working with these students who often could not read or were reading far below grade level.

With her down-to-earth, approachable style, she worked to earn their trust and engage them in various ways, including having them write rap songs and poetry. Before making the career change into education, Pam traveled throughout the United States as a bankruptcy and probate litigation manager for a credit card division of Fleet Bank.

When asked why she likes to tutor, Pam replied that she loves that moment when a student grasps a concept for the first time, that "aha" moment! She also feels that students are often much smarter than they think they are, and that A+'s one-to-one tutoring format allows her to work closely with each student to foster that sense of confidence. Pam also confesses that she too learns something from each student.

In her spare time, Pam enjoys gardening and reading--she loves words and owns an extensive collection of books about word origins. She resides in Glenside with her husband of 25 years and has a grown son who lives in St. Petersburg, Florida.

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