



In This Issue

[Reading Debate: Traditional Text Versus Online](#)

[Featured Tutor: Adam Torr](#)

[Featured Student: Caitlyn Scanlon](#)

[FREE Proctored SAT Exam](#)

A+ Test Prep and Tutoring Newsletter

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The On-line Reading Debate



A recent *New York Times* article, "[Literacy Debate: Online, R U Really Reading?](#)," focuses on the merits and drawbacks of reading electronically vs. reading text the "old-fashioned" way. Most teenagers spend considerable time on computers, sometimes several hours a day, and this trend has encroached upon the time they spend on traditional reading. Critics say that the hours children spend exploring the Internet are contributing to decreased or stagnating standardized reading test scores, diminished attention spans, and the destruction of a common culture that can only be derived from books. Reading on the Internet is a different experience than reading print, and different cognitive processes come into play. Information that is gathered electronically is absorbed in small chunks rather than in a way that requires sustained effort and focus. In addition, many websites contain inaccurate information and text that is ungrammatical or that contains spelling errors.

On the other hand, proponents of on-line reading argue that there are benefits to this newer kind of

reading. For children with dyslexia and other learning difficulties, they argue that reading on-line is often more comfortable and is certainly better than watching T.V., playing video games, or not reading at all. Also, children can access information quickly from a wide variety of on-line sources, allowing them to consider a range of viewpoints and come to their own conclusions. Reading on-line can, of course, lead to reading in the traditional way too. Another benefit is that the digital age is here to stay, and children must be able to find and evaluate information on a computer to keep up with the demands of school and, in the future, the workplace. To read the *New York Times* article, follow this [link](#).

Featured Student

Featured Tutor



Adam Torr

In the two short years Adam Torr has been working for A+ Test Prep and Tutoring, he has become an indispensable member of the A+ team. He tutors a wide variety of subjects, including SSAT, PSAT and SAT Math prep, ACT Math/Science prep, American and European history, and math at various levels, from algebra to pre-calculus. Adam also performs some administrative duties for A+.

An Elkins Park native, Adam graduated in 2004 from Lafayette College where he majored in Government and Law and minored in U.S. History. While at Lafayette, he was active in the college choir and ran the student basketball fan group, the "Zoo Crew." He is currently working on his Master's Degree in U.S. History at East Stroudsburg University. His thesis focuses on the integration of Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. Adam plans to pursue his Ph.D. in U.S. History and ultimately hopes to become a college professor.

To further hone his teaching skills, Adam works as a substitute teacher at Abington Junior and Senior High Schools. Adam enjoys tutoring for A+ because he likes connecting with students and seeing them reach their goals, whether that means reaching a particular score on the SAT or getting an "A" on the next math or history test. In turn, students find it easy to connect with Adam because of his enthusiastic yet "laid-back" teaching style.



Caitlyn Scanlon

Our featured student this month is Caitlyn Scanlon who was a sophomore last year at Country Day School of the Sacred Heart in Bryn Mawr. Caitlyn was struggling in her 2nd year French course. Although she could memorize vocabulary, she had a hard time with verb conjugations and verb tenses, and forming grammatically correct sentences.

After Caitlyn received a failing grade on her mid-term exam, her parents contacted A+ about getting one-on-one tutoring. A+ tutor Jennifer Gregory worked with Caitlyn weekly for 14 weeks, right up until her final exam in June. The first thing Jennifer did was to assess Caitlyn's learning style, and she discovered that Caitlyn was a visual learner. Jennifer then proceeded to help Caitlyn learn French visually by making posters, charts, and decision trees. She also drilled Caitlyn both orally and in writing and reviewed with her mistakes on quizzes and tests.

Jennifer describes Caitlyn as a very motivated student who was always prepared for each tutoring session. Caitlyn, in turn, says that she really enjoyed working with Jennifer because she was very funny and

In his spare time, Adam pursues his love of history and politics by visiting historical sites and battlefields and reading books on American history and political theory. Adam is a diehard Phillies fan, has coached youth baseball, and enjoys hiking and attending concerts.

pleasant to work with, and that she patiently explained why things were wrong. Jennifer would then ask Caitlyn to explain the concept back to her to make sure that Caitlyn truly understood.

After several months of hard work, we are happy to report that Caitlyn received a 92 on her final French exam! Caitlyn now feels more confident and better prepared to tackle French 3 in the fall. Congratulations to both tutor and student on such remarkable work- très bien!

FREE Proctored SAT Exam



A+ is offering a free, no-obligation full-length SAT practice exam to our students and to members of the community. The exam is scheduled for Saturday, September 6, 2008 from 8:45 AM-1:00 PM at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Glenside, PA.

This is a great opportunity for students to take the exam under actual test-like conditions prior to sitting for the "real" thing. Students will receive a detailed score report which includes an analysis of their strengths and weaknesses on the exam. Click [here](#) to view a sample score report.

Space is limited, so call our office today at 215.886.9188 to register and reserve your spot!

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. For more information please contact me at 215.886.9188.