



A+ Test Prep and Tutoring Newsletter

October, 2009

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Featured Student



Carolyn Dee, now a senior at North Penn High School, signed up last spring for A+ one-on-one tutoring in order to prepare for the May and June 2009 SAT's. Although she had scored fairly well on a diagnostic test in January, Carolyn had high

expectations for herself and wanted additional instruction so that she could improve her scores.

Carolyn admits that math is not her favorite subject at school, but she was determined to make the most of her math tutoring anyway. She found the ideal temperament in her A+ Math SAT tutor, Beth Ann Oleson, who was patient and understanding when Carolyn struggled with a problem, but also gave her confidence and continually pushed her to do better.

Grammar and reading comprehension were

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 community groups to provide:

- Free Proctored ACT and SAT Exams at Your School
- SAT, ACT, SSAT, and ISEE Test preparation Courses at Your School
- Remedial Reading and Math Tutoring Programs
- [Study Skills](#) courses

Programs are offered throughout the [Delaware Valley](#). For more information please contact me at 215.886.9188.

Daniel Ascher, M.Ed.
President

already Carolyn's strong suits, so her Verbal SAT tutor, Brian Kirchner, worked with her to refresh her memory about grammar rules, reinforce essay writing techniques, and improve her understanding of reading comprehension strategies specific to the SAT. She especially enjoyed analyzing passages with Brian and "debating" the various answer choices with him.

Carolyn credits her tutors' instruction and the sheer amount of repetition and practice doing SAT questions through homework and practice tests with her performance on test day. She felt well prepared for the SAT, understood the test format and how questions were typically worded, and felt well versed in test-taking strategies. This is reflected in the fact that Carolyn improved her scores by over 200 points from her diagnostic test: on the June SAT, she scored 700 on Critical Reading, 580 on Math, and 650 on Writing, for a composite score of 1930.

With these very solid SAT scores in her back pocket, this busy senior is applying to mostly large or urban colleges such as Syracuse, Northeastern, Loyola (MD), Fordham, Penn State, American University, Hofstra, and the University of Massachusetts. Her goal is to major either in English or Communications.

Carolyn's passion outside of school is horseback riding (she has been riding since the age of 7), but she also finds time to participate in school activities--she is both Secretary of the French Club and Social Council Chair of the Ski and Snowboard Club at North Penn High.

Congratulations to Carolyn on all of her hard work (and to her tutors as well), and good luck in the college application process!

Brain-Building Math Games



Most students of this generation are "screen oriented"--they are accustomed to finding both information and entertainment through their computers, iPods,

Essay Tip: How to Write a Conclusion



While many students struggle with how to begin an essay and how to construct a compelling thesis statement, there is also an art to ending an essay. It is equally important to know how to start a paper as it is to know how to end it with impact. If a conclusion is weak, it can detract from an otherwise solid piece of work; conversely, if an essay ends strongly, it can dramatically improve the reader's impression of a mediocre or not especially well-written essay.

A well-constructed essay consists of multiple paragraphs: an introduction that presents the writer's position on the topic and previews the ideas to come, several body paragraphs that contain specific, detailed examples that provide evidence to support the thesis, followed by a conclusion. The function of the conclusion is to sum up the ideas presented in a satisfying and logical way. Specifically, a good conclusion should:

- * Restate the thesis differently from how it is expressed in the introduction
- * Offer the reader a new understanding or connection between the ideas presented
- * Provide a sense of closure
- * If appropriate, arouse the reader's emotions

By restating the thesis in your concluding paragraph, you are bringing your thoughts full circle and reminding the reader of your original intent. It is essential, however, that you not restate your thesis using the exact same wording you used in the introduction.

The reader hopes to have a deeper appreciation of the subject by the end of the essay, and while a good



and even their cell phones. With that in mind, we offer the

following list of mind-building websites that feature math games for all age and skill levels. Just don't let on to your kids that they may actually learn something as they play!

Coolmath4kids.com: This colorful site for young children is touted as "an amusement park of math and more." Besides the standard fare of practice exercises in addition, subtraction, multiplication (including lattice), long division, and fractions, it also features art and geometry activities, as well as math games, puzzles, and fun with a dizzying array of cool calculators. Check out the "Wind Chill Factor" calculator and the "Your Age in Dog Years" calculator! There is also a sister site called Coolmath.com aimed at the pre-algebra set and up (ages 13+).

Funbrain.com: This website boasts a Math Arcade where kids in kindergarten through 8th grade can match mathematical wits interactively and practice their skills in 25 different games. Players select the level of difficulty and choose their own game piece. There is a separate area of the site where you can play Sudoku at varying levels of difficulty.

Funschool.com: Action Fraction, Martian Math, Paint Brush Math, and What Time Is It? are just some of the 34 math arcade games on this site for preschoolers and children in the primary grades. The user can conveniently find games by grade level (Preschool, K-2nd Grade, 3-4th Grade, and 5th-6th Grade).

Websudoku.com: Your kids can never complain again that they have nothing to do on a rainy day. This site claims to offer billions of Sudoku puzzles to play on-line, at varying levels of difficulty: Easy, Medium, Hard, and Evil! For those who have never tried their hand at Sudoku, the site offers interactive tutorials for this game of logic.

writer should use the final paragraph to bring his argument to a graceful conclusion, the word "conclude" also means to "arrive at a belief or opinion by reasoning."

The essay should therefore also offer us a new understanding of the topic, one which ties things up in a satisfying way. It can also include a call to action, a prediction, or a solution or recommendation. This is not, however, the time to introduce a new topic or additional evidence, or to go off on a tangent. Such tactics will only frustrate the reader and make him lose sight of your original thesis.

When appropriate, a conclusion can also appeal to the reader's emotions. If you are writing a personal essay, for example, your conclusion might contain an admission of a character flaw or offer some other insight that would resonate emotionally with the reader. This technique should not be overdone, of course, but can be very powerful.

By keeping the above guidelines in mind, your conclusion will be sure to leave a lasting impression on your reader. For more information about A+'s Write Better Essays Program or about one-on-one sessions with an A+ writing tutor for help with college application essays, please contact our office at 215-886-9188.

Free Proctored ACT and SAT Practice Exams



A+ Test Prep and Tutoring is once again offering free, no-obligation, proctored practice exams to current students and to members of the community.

Two proctored practice exams are scheduled for this fall on the following dates:

ACT Proctored Practice Exam -- Saturday, October 31

at 8:45 AM.

SAT Proctored Practice Exam -- Saturday, November 21
at 8:45 AM.

Both proctored exams will be held at St. Paul's
Lutheran Church at 120 N. Easton Road, Glenside, PA
19038.

This is a great opportunity for students to take the ACT
or SAT 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.

Space is limited, so call our office today at
215.886.9188 or [email us](#) to register and reserve your
spot!

Thank you for your interest in A+ and our newsletter. Feel free to contact us at 215.886.9188 or on
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