



A+ Test Prep and Tutoring Newsletter

Creating Bright Futures

October 2006

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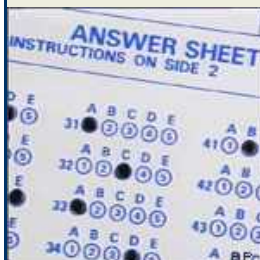
SAT Tip of the Month

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SAT Tip of the Month



The SAT Writing Section

Although the recent introduction of the SAT essay has caused much debate, it is important to understand that it only counts for about 30% of the Writing score. The majority of the Writing score is derived from the

• Get a Head Start on the SAT



Your child's preparation for the SAT starts much earlier than high school. It is a process that is years in the making. In this issue we recommend six things your middle schooler can do to get a 'head start' on the SAT.

1. Reading—bar none—is the best habit you can instill in your child. Reading will improve your child's vocabulary, expose her to writing styles of all kinds, and help develop her critical thinking skills. Be a role model and read yourself. Make your home a reading-rich environment with newspapers, magazines, and books. Visit the library and bookstore frequently with your child.

If your child is a reluctant reader, don't be too critical of her reading choices. The point is simply to read. However humble those initial choices may be, in time her selection of reading material will improve and broaden. Ask the children's librarian or the local bookstore manager for recommendations in your child's subject area of interest.

Check out the following websites for additional tips and reading recommendations:

- [Reading is Fundamental](#)
- [American Library Assoc. Recommended Reading](#)
- [Powell's Kids Books](#)

2. Grammar is key. Be relentless about correcting your child's grammar whenever necessary and explain why it's wrong. Don't allow her to utter a sentence such as "Me and Judy are going to the mall." (Correct version: "Judy and I are going to the mall.")

3. Course selection is also important. Be sure your child takes challenging courses in middle school. The course expectations will be higher and the workload will be heavier, but the payoff will be greater too.

4. Learn a foreign language. Studying another language will reinforce your child's understanding of grammatical concepts and enrich her vocabulary.

section focusing on grammar and usage: identifying specific grammatical errors in sentences, recognizing awkward sentences and knowing how to rephrase them to make them both grammatical and concise, and knowing how to organize a paragraph.

Your student should have a solid understanding of the following grammatical and writing concepts in order to do well on this portion of the test:

- Subject-verb agreement
- Compound subjects/ delayed subjects
- Verb tenses
- Pronouns (subject vs. object pronouns and pronoun consistency)
- Double negatives
- Comparative and superlative adjectives/ adverbs
- Illogical comparisons
- Misplaced (sometimes referred to as "dangling") modifiers
- Idioms
- Contractions and possessives
- Wordiness

Reviewing these concepts will not only help your student in the multiple-choice grammar and usage section, but will also strengthen his essay writing skills.

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5. Writing is a skill that takes practice to perfect. School assignments such as essays, term papers, and lab reports all help sharpen your child's writing skills. If your child does not do well on such assignments, check to see if the teacher has indicated specifically how her writing can be improved. Encourage your child to approach her teacher for more in-depth feedback.

6. Finally, use the link below to have your child sign up for the "SAT Question of the Day." This is an easy way to get used to the type of material on the SAT.

[The Official SAT Question of the Day](#)

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• **SSAT Flex Testing**



Students who want to take the Secondary School Admissions Test (SSAT), but are unable to take the test on one of the national test dates, may now take the test at A+ Test Prep and Tutoring in Jenkintown. Our test center code is 0132. Please call our office for more information.

[SSAT Flex Testing](#)

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• **Monthly Promotion**

One-to-One Skill Builder Programs

\$50 Off Math Booster Program

Is your son or daughter weak in the basics of high school math?

This program provides an excellent review of the basic math skills needed for success in higher-level math courses and on the SAT, including topics from Arithmetic, Algebra I and Geometry. Consists of six 1.5-hour sessions.

Use offer code N1006.

[Math Booster](#)

Offer Expires: 11-15-06

\$50 Off Vocabulary Booster Program

This program is an excellent way to acquire SAT-level vocabulary, including 500 of the most common SAT words.

Vocabulary is developed by using 3 learning techniques: grouping words by related meaning, word origins, and using words in context. Consists of six 1.5-hour sessions.

Use Offer Code N1006

[Vocabulary Booster](#)

Offer Expires: 11-15-06

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