

# Reading Strategies for the SAT Exam

SAT Intensive Workshop 2019

# About the Reading Section



65 minutes, 52 questions.

That's 75 seconds per question.



5 passages with 10-11 questions each

Usually one old passage, two science, two modern lit



5 minutes to read each passage.

45 seconds per question.

# Reading Section is Ambiguous

- ▶ SAT claims 3 100% wrong, 1 100% right.
- ▶ Not entirely true, often exist some trippy nuanced questions.
- ▶ What are good strategies to avoid this?

# Common Sense

Don't use it.

Correct answer has direct evidence in text.

# Key Words

- ▶ Identify key words in answer choices.
- ▶ Correct answer will:
  - ▶ Have the key words in it.
  - ▶ Have a very close synonym to the key word in it.
- ▶ When in doubt, look for key words.

# Keep Moving

Questions are weighted evenly.

If you're stuck on a sentence (eg having to reread):

- Move on.

- Mark it as a trouble sentence.

Trouble sentences may not be critical for any questions.

# Locating vs Understanding

- ▶ You don't have to understand the passage.
- ▶ You have to locate information.
- ▶ Much more important to find information than to comprehend it.
  - ▶ See "Key Words" slide.

# Marking Up the Passage

Physical interaction with passage often helps promote retention.

Mark up:

- Confusing words.

- Summarize difficult paragraph in a few words.

- Important ideas.



# Things to Note

- ▶ Main ideas
  - ▶ Of each paragraph
  - ▶ Of the passage
- ▶ Author's opinion
- ▶ Names of characters
- ▶ Changes
  - ▶ In topic
  - ▶ In tone
  - ▶ In opinion
- ▶ Evidence
- ▶ Style

# Concrete Strategies

Read the preamble.

Read the passage.

Read the question.

Predict the answer.

Use process of elimination.