

SAT Intensive Workshop - Day 5

Tomas Matzner

14 June 2019

Please address any errors, questions, or comments to tomas.matzner@utexas.edu.

Slogan list:

1. Math: FEWER CALCULATIONS MEANS FEWER STUPID MISTAKES.
2. Writing: BE AS CONCISE AS POSSIBLE IN AS FEW WORDS AS POSSIBLE.
3. Grammar: GOOD MODIFIES A PERSON, PLACE, OR THING; WELL MODIFIES AN ACTION OR A PERSON'S HEALTH.

1 Today's Events

- Written vocabulary quiz.
- Full SAT exam (sections 1,2,3,4) under testing conditions.
- Very late lunch.
- Essay review and peer review from 13 June.
- Vocabulary Kahoot.
- Rhetorical triangle lecture.
- SAT essay under testing conditions.
- Essay review and peer review from today.

1.1 Vocabulary quiz

The words for today were thwart, vice, sanctimonious, garner, sequester, obfuscate, evince, and solicitude.

Something that I perhaps didn't make super clear yesterday is that sequester refers mainly to places. When you want to say "sequester" about a person, we generally pick a different word, such as isolated or cloistered. Picking up on these slight differences is important when writing, as sometimes a word doesn't quite fit despite being technically correct.

Also, be sure to *always* use proper grammar and punctuation, even when doing these little vocabulary quizzes. I noticed that some of you didn't take care to capitalize sentences, didn't put a period at the end of a sentence, or didn't bother to capitalize proper nouns. If you start letting it slip, suddenly it becomes a bad habit and you'll be doing it on the actual SAT. I know that you've probably developed bad grammar habits from texting, cause who wants to be completely formal when sending a text to a friend? But, I ask that you try to be grammatically correct from now on when sending messages. Use less shorthand (smh,

wtf, jw, and so on), and use proper punctuation. The SAT is not a hard exam – it’s all about having the right habits and strategies.

1.2 Full SAT Exam

Overall, I was quite pleased with how everyone did. Everyone improved from the diagnostic test – some people improved by as much as over 100 points. I guess I’m doing something right, after all. We’ll discuss the full exam and go over the answers on Monday.

Everyone’s math and writing scores were definitely quite good – it seemed to be the reading section that brought people’s scores down. Next week, then, we’ll focus on trying to improve reading comprehension and synthesizing information quickly.

1.3 Rhetorical Triangle lecture

I’ve uploaded the powerpoint presentation in pdf form to the Github. It’s named Rhetorical Strategies for the SAT Essay.pdf.

2 Homework

- i) Finish the punctuationworksheet.pdf file and bring it to class on Monday.
- ii) Review the two presentations on Github and make sure you understand them fully. Come ready on Monday with questions if you have any.
- iii) You should know all of the following words, in addition to their definitions, parts of speech, and how to use them in a sentence:
 - acrid (adj) - sharp; pungent. Used of smells and tastes.
 - boorish (adj) - ill-mannered.
 - cynical (adj) - believing that people act only out of selfish motives.
 - epistle (n) - a letter.
 - heresy (n) - a belief against orthodox opinion.
 - lance (n) - spear; spike; javelin.
 - obscure (adj) - difficult to understand; partially hidden.
 - poignant (adj) - deeply moving; strongly affecting the emotions.
 - respite (n) - a break or intermission, especially from a tiring activity (physically or mentally).
 - terse (adj) - concise or to the point.
- iv) Also, review these notes if you get a chance. I try to put some good information into them, so you should get some good use out of them.

Have a good weekend, guys, and don’t forget to have fun.