




SAT ENGLISH PREP Class 2

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- Weighting of the SAT
 - Essay Rubric
 - *Consider the Lobster*
 - Essay Scaffolding

Agenda

- Total Score out of 400-1600
 - Evidence-Based Reading and Writing Section: 200–800
 - This score is a combination of the Writing and Language as well as the Reading Test scores.
 - Math Section: 200–800
- SAT Essay 3 scores ranging from 2-8
 - Two different evaluators score your essay out of 4 for each category.
- The top percentile includes scores 1520-1600.

Weighting of the SAT

- As you read the passage, consider how [the author] uses...
 - evidence, such as facts or examples, to support claims.
 - reasoning to develop ideas and to connect claims and evidence.
 - stylistic or persuasive elements, such as word choice or appeals to emotion, to add power to the ideas expressed.

SAT Essay Prompt

- Write an essay in which you explain how [the author] ***builds an argument to persuade*** [his/her] audience that [author's claim]. In your essay, **analyze** how [the author] uses one or more of the features listed above (or features of your own choice) to strengthen the logic and persuasiveness of [his/her] argument. Be sure that your analysis focuses on the **most relevant** features of the passage.

SAT Essay Prompt

➤ **IMPORTANT:**

- Your essay should not explain whether you agree with [the author's] claims, but rather explain how the author builds an argument to persuade [his/her] audience.

SAT Essay Prompt

➤ The Passage

- The essay will center on your ability to understand, to analyze, and to explain your analysis of the passage.
- The passage will take the form of an argument written for a broad audience.
- The form of writing will always be argumentative.

SAT Essay Passage

- In this *rhetorical analysis*, you're paying attention to how the author uses particular techniques and elements to make his or her writing more convincing, persuasive, and powerful.

- Evidence
- Reasoning
- Appeals to Ethos/Pathos

SAT Essay as Rhetorical Analysis

- Again, your main goal is not to show why or whether you agree or disagree with the points the author makes.
- Detachment (or objectivity) is an essential post-secondary skill.

SAT Essay as Rhetorical Analysis

- Scoring the Essay
 - Reading: How well you demonstrated your understanding of the passage
 - Analysis: How well you analyzed the passage and carried out the task of explaining how the author builds his or her argument to persuade an audience
 - Writing: How skillfully you crafted your response

SAT Essay Evaluation



What is evidence?



What is “good” evidence?



**What makes a good use of
evidence?**



How do we use evidence well?



Ethos, Pathos, and Logos

How do we use evidence well?



Consider the Lobster

- Unfamiliar words?
- What is Wallace's argument/question/viewpoint?
- What kinds of evidence does the author present in order to support his claim?
- Does Wallace's argument rely primarily on ethos, pathos, or logos? Why?
- Is the article persuasive? Why or why not?

Consider the Lobster

- Unfamiliar words?

Examples: sentient, gustatory, epistemology, euphemism, rudimentary

Consider the Lobster

Sentient - able to perceive or feel things.

Gustatory - concerned with tasting or the sense of taste.

Epistemology - the theory of knowledge, especially with regard to its methods, validity, and scope. Epistemology is the investigation of what distinguishes justified belief from opinion.

Euphemism - a mild or indirect word or expression substituted for one considered to be too harsh or blunt when referring to something unpleasant or embarrassing. (E.g, “downsizing” as an euphemism for “cuts”)

Rudimentary - involving or limited to basic principles.

Consider the Lobster

➤ What is Wallace’s argument/question/viewpoint?

Does Wallace argue that lobsters are sentient beings deserving humans’ compassion?

Consider the Lobster

➤ What kinds of evidence does the author present in order to support his claim?

He remarks that cooks leave the kitchen when lobsters are immersed in boiling water, emphasizes living creatures' "neurological hardware" and fight-or-flight responses to pain, references studies of lobsters' migratory cycles, and describes lobsters' behavior at a food festival.

Consider the Lobster

➤ Does Wallace's argument rely primarily on ethos, pathos, or logos? Why?

There is some logos, such as when Wallace presents facts pertaining to marine zoology, and when he discusses animal sentience in terms of a continuum, with higher-order mammals on one extreme end, and lower-order invertebrates on the other. However, the argument relies mainly on pathos because of the disturbingly vivid description of lobsters' reactions to discomfort and pain.

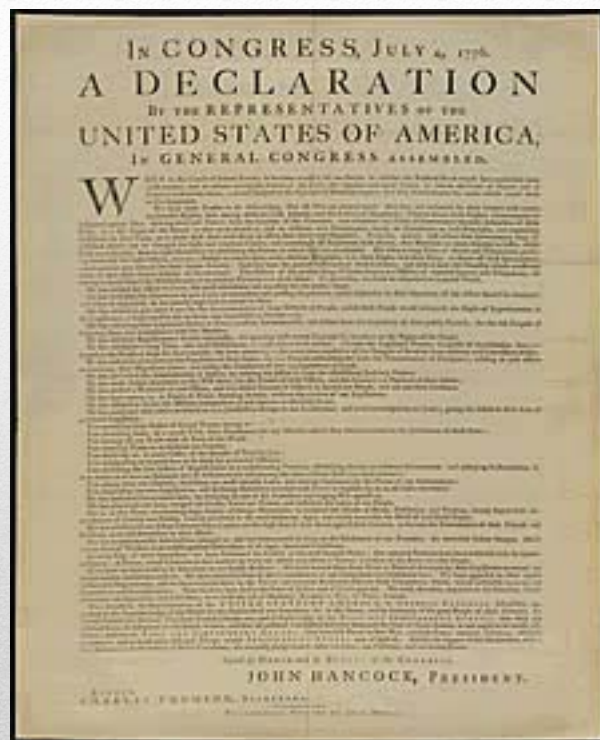
Consider the Lobster

➤ Is the article persuasive? Why or why not?

Yes, the article is persuasive because of its thought-provoking descriptions of lobsters' behavioral reactions to pain and its philosophical invitation to “consider” lobsters' subjectivity.

No, the article can benefit from rigorously scientific comparisons of human and non-human sentience?

Consider the Lobster



- How does the author build his argument?
- What is evidence?
- What is his main argument?
- How does he reason his main argument?
- Is his argument persuasive? Why or why not?


The Declaration of Independence

Breaking Down the Declaration of Independence

Section	In 1776 Speak	We Would Say Now...
Preamble	When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume, among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.	When people decide as a group to separate from one political process to create a new one, especially when their rights are violated, it is their duty to fully explain why they are separating.


New Theory of Government (Social Contract and Rights of Man)	<p>We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness .</p>	<p>We believe that all people are equal to each other and are granted certain rights by their Creator (life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness) that no government should take away.</p>
	<p>That, to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; That whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness.</p>	<p>Governments are created by people and receive their powers from the people. When a government abuses the rights of the people, the people have the right to change or overthrow the government and create something new that will protect them and treat them civilly and fairly.</p>
	<p>Prudence , indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shown that mankind are more disposed to suffer while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism. it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security.</p>	<p>Changing governments that have been around for a long time should not just occur without good reasons. It is the nature of people to deal with an unjust government than to change it. However, when a government constantly abuses power to the point of one person with absolute power, it is up to the people, and even their right to get rid of the government in order to protect future generations.</p>

Indictment of the King	<p>Such has been the patient sufferance of these colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former systems of government. The history of the present king of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over these states. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world.</p>	<p>We have tolerated the abuse of power from the king (George III) long enough and now it is time to change (leave) the control of the king and establish a new government. Before we do this, we need to explain to the world why.</p>
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The Declaration of Independence is perhaps the most masterfully written state paper of Western civilization...[No] assessment of it can be complete without taking into account its extraordinary merits as a work of **political prose style**. Although many scholars have recognized those merits, there are surprisingly few sustained studies of the stylistic **artistry** of the Declaration. (Web resource: <https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/stylistic-artistry-of-the-declaration> used for all subsequent slides)

The Declaration of Independence



The text of the Declaration can be divided into five sections—the introduction, the preamble, the indictment of George III, the denunciation of the British people, and the conclusion.

The Declaration of Independence

The introduction consists of the first paragraph--**a single, lengthy, periodic sentence.**

Note: A periodic sentence “has the main clause or predicate at the end. This is used for emphasis and can be persuasive by putting reasons for something at the beginning before the final point is made. It can also create suspense or interest for the reader.”

Examples of periodic sentences include:

- In spite of heavy snow and cold temperatures, the game continued.
- With low taxes, beautiful views and a mild climate, this city is a great place to live.
- Positive thinking, by helping us stay focused and maintaining a good attitude, is important for a happy life.

The Declaration of Independence

Taken out of context, this sentence is so general it could be used as the introduction to a declaration by any "oppressed" people. Seen within its original context, however, it is a model of subtlety, nuance, and implication that works on several levels of meaning and allusion to orient readers toward a favorable view of America and to prepare them for the rest of the Declaration. **From its magisterial opening phrase, which sets the American Revolution within the whole "course of human events," to its assertion that "the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God" entitle America to a "separate and equal station among the powers of the earth," to its quest for sanction from "the opinions of mankind," the introduction elevates the quarrel with England from a petty political dispute to a major event in the grand sweep of history. It dignifies the Revolution as a contest of principle and implies that the American cause has a special claim to moral legitimacy--all without mentioning England or America by name.**

The Declaration of Independence

Rather than defining the Declaration's task as one of persuasion, which would doubtless raise the defenses of readers as well as imply that there was more than one publicly credible view of the British-American conflict, **the introduction identifies the purpose** of the Declaration as simply to "declare"--to announce publicly in explicit terms--the "causes" impelling America to leave the British empire. This gives the Declaration, at the outset, **an aura of philosophical** (in the eighteenth-century sense of the term) **objectivity** that it will seek to maintain throughout. Rather than presenting one side in a public controversy on which good and decent people could differ, the Declaration purports to do no more than a natural philosopher would do in reporting the causes of any physical event. The issue, it implies, is not one of interpretation but of observation.

The Declaration of Independence

The most important word in the introduction is "necessary," which in the eighteenth century carried strongly deterministic overtones. To say an act was necessary implied that it was impelled by fate or determined by the operation of inextricable natural laws and was beyond the control of human agents...**Characterizing the Revolution as necessary suggested that it resulted from constraints that operated with lawlike force throughout the material universe and within the sphere of human action.** The Revolution was not merely preferable, defensible, or justifiable. It was as inescapable, as inevitable, as unavoidable within the course of human events as the motions of the tides or the changing of the seasons within the course of natural events.

The Declaration of Independence

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The Declaration of Independence

Labeling the Americans "one people" and the British "another" was also laden with implication and performed several important strategic functions within the Declaration. **First, because two alien peoples cannot be made one, it reinforced the notion that breaking the "political bands" with England was a necessary step in the course of human events.** America and England were already separated by the more basic fact that they had become two different peoples. The gulf between them was much more than political; it was intellectual, social, moral, cultural and, according to the principles of nature, could no more be repaired... To try to perpetuate a purely political connection would be "forced and unnatural," "repugnant to reason, to the universal order of things."

The Declaration of Independence

Each word [in the preamble] is chosen and placed to achieve maximum impact. Each **clause** is indispensable to the progression of thought. Each **sentence** is carefully constructed internally and in relation to what precedes and follows. In its ability to compress complex ideas into a brief, clear statement, the preamble is a paradigm of eighteenth-century Enlightenment prose style, in which purity, simplicity, directness, precision, and, above all, perspicuity were the highest rhetorical and literary virtues. One word follows another with complete inevitability of sound and meaning. Not one word can be moved or replaced without disrupting the balance and harmony of the entire preamble.

The Declaration of Independence

The preamble also has a powerful sense of structural unity. This is achieved partly by the latent **chronological progression of thought**, in which the reader is moved from the creation of mankind, to the institution of government, to the throwing off of government when it fails to protect the people's unalienable rights, to the creation of new government that will better secure the people's safety and happiness. This dramatic scenario, with its first act implicitly set in the Garden of Eden (where man was "created equal"), may, for some readers, have contained **mythic overtones** of humanity's fall from divine grace. At the very least, it gives an almost **archetypal quality** to the ideas of the preamble and **continues the notion, broached** in the introduction, that the American Revolution is a major development in "the course of human events."

The Declaration of Independence
