



## Purpose/Rhetorical Strategy

### About These Problems

In critical reading sections you will be given a long passage and will be asked questions about the purpose and tone etc. Purpose and rhetorical strategy questions ask about the use of a literary device. Review literary devices and read that portion of the passage again focusing solely on the context and deduce the purpose.

**Question.** In the passage below, what is the purpose of the third sentence?

*In 2009 a high school student took the SAT and performed poorly. He couldn't understand it. He had spent all summer learning new vocabulary words and reviewing algebra. How could someone who was doing so well in school perform so poorly on a simple test? After all CollegeBoard claimed that the SAT was designed to assess how ready a student is to go to college.*

*After taking scores of practice tests and making a list of questions he got wrong, he realized he was making the same mistakes again and again. Instead of aimlessly practicing, he only reviewed topics he performed poorly on. After only two months of practicing he improved nearly 300 points and achieved his dream score.*

*Four years later after being accepted into a prestigious university it still bothered him that the SAT makes so many students doubt themselves. Talent cannot be measured by a four-hour test. He decided to start a company to help students ace the SAT.*

- A. Ask a rhetorical logic question
- B. To question authority
- C. Provide an explanation
- D. To wail in uncertainty

E. Reason with an internal problem

**Answer. A:** Option A fits as it is an rhetorical question. The author is not really questioning authority. He isn't providing an explanation, he is asking for one. The other two options are clearly not true. Option A is the best bet.