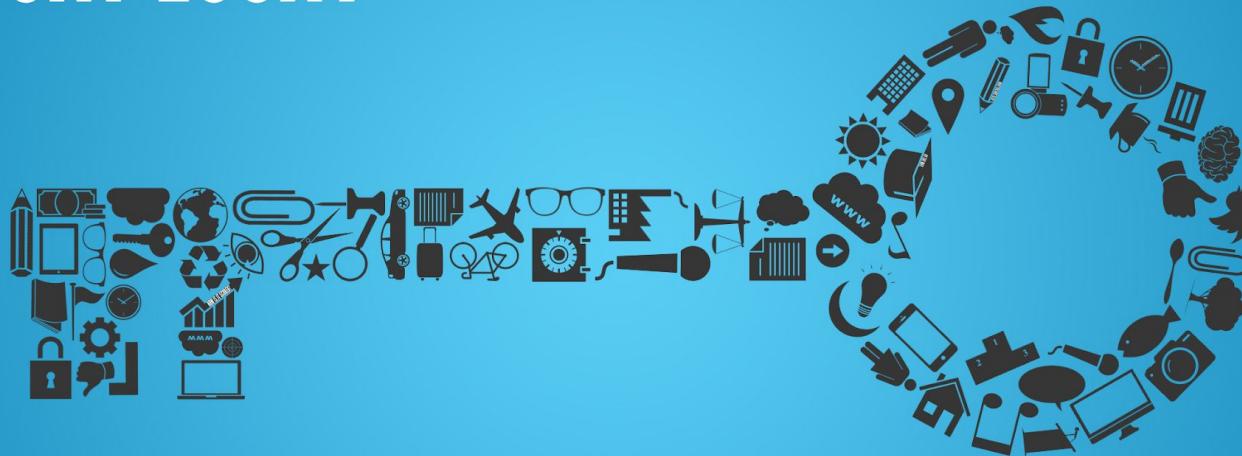


UNLOCKING THE SAT ESSAY



WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO





WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO

Read an argument essay

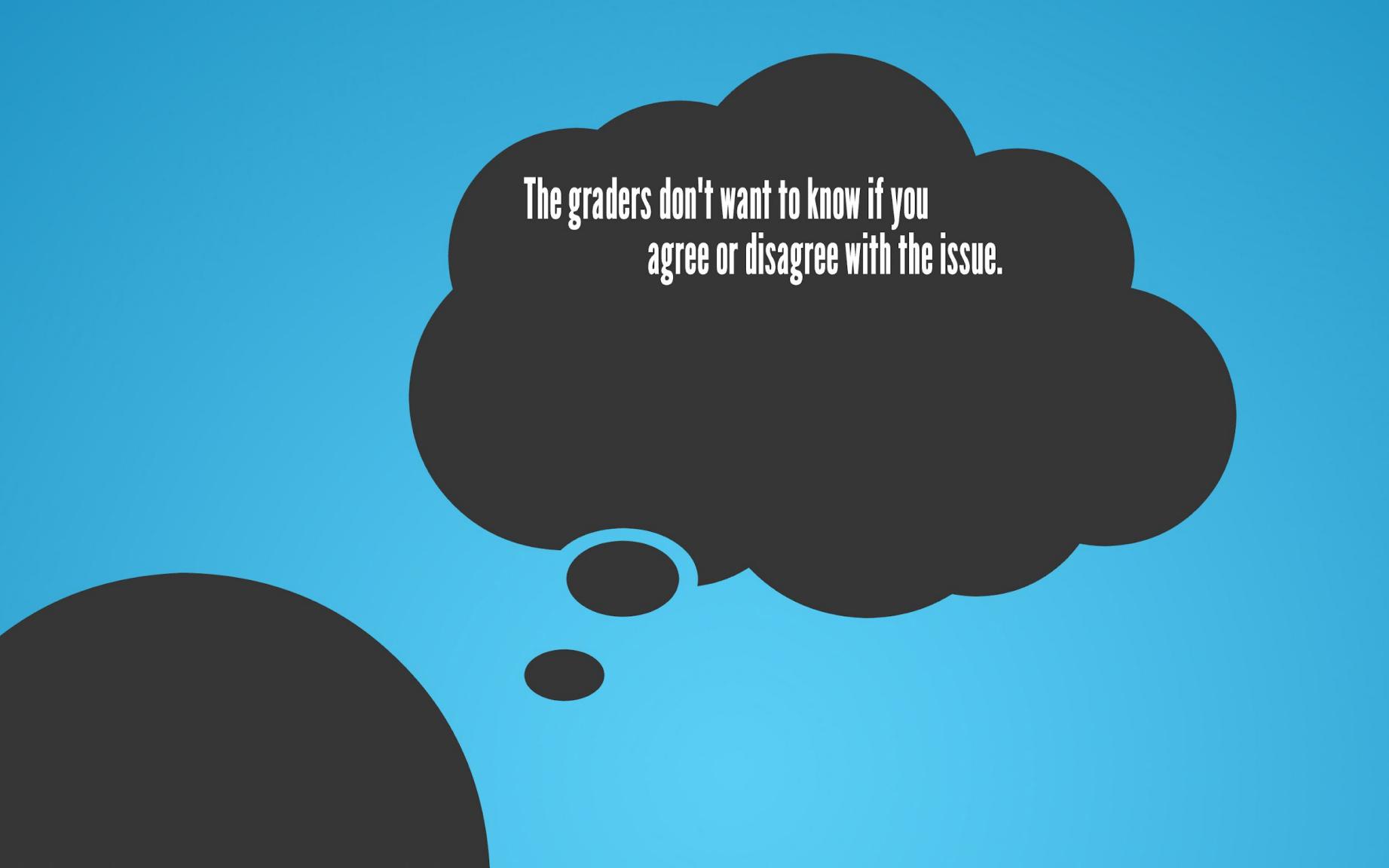
WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO



Read an argument essay

Write your own essay
explaining HOW the writer
builds his/her argument

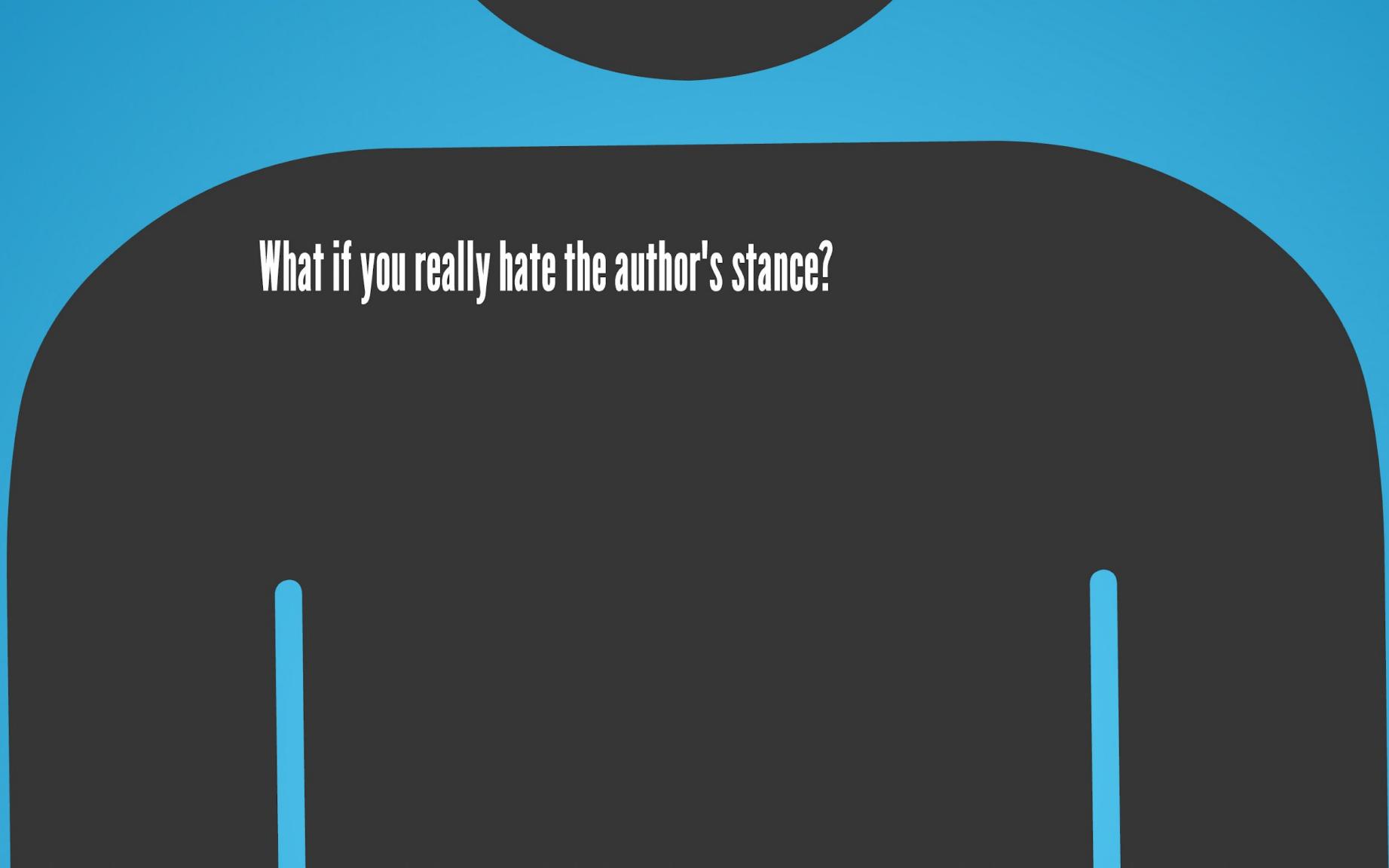




The graders don't want to know if you
agree or disagree with the issue.

The graders don't want to know if you
agree or disagree with the issue.

Instead,
you are going to analyze **HOW**
the argument was constructed.



What if you really hate the author's stance?

What if you really hate the author's stance?

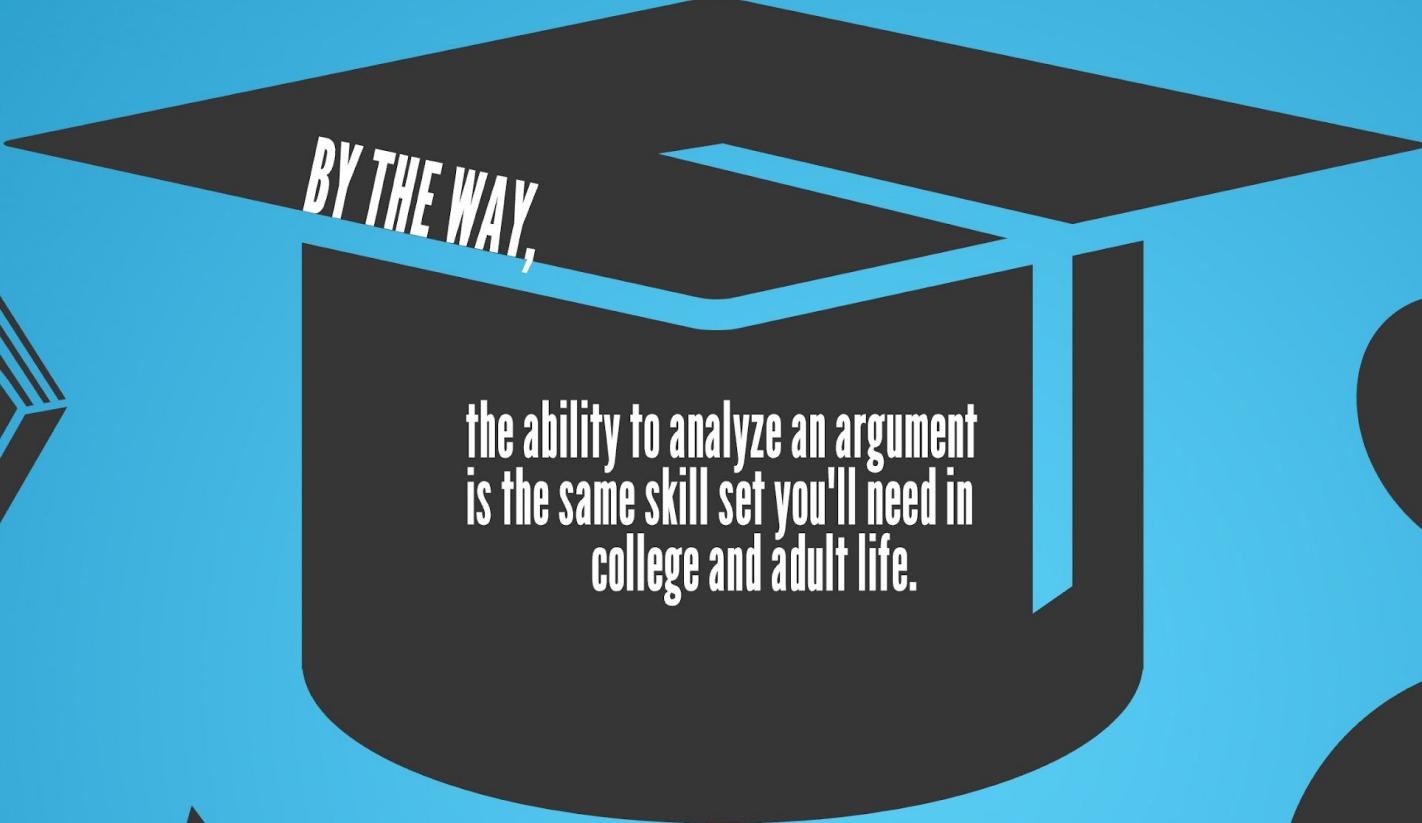


It doesn't matter.

Set aside your heart
and just examine the
argument tools without criticizing the author.



BY THE WAY,

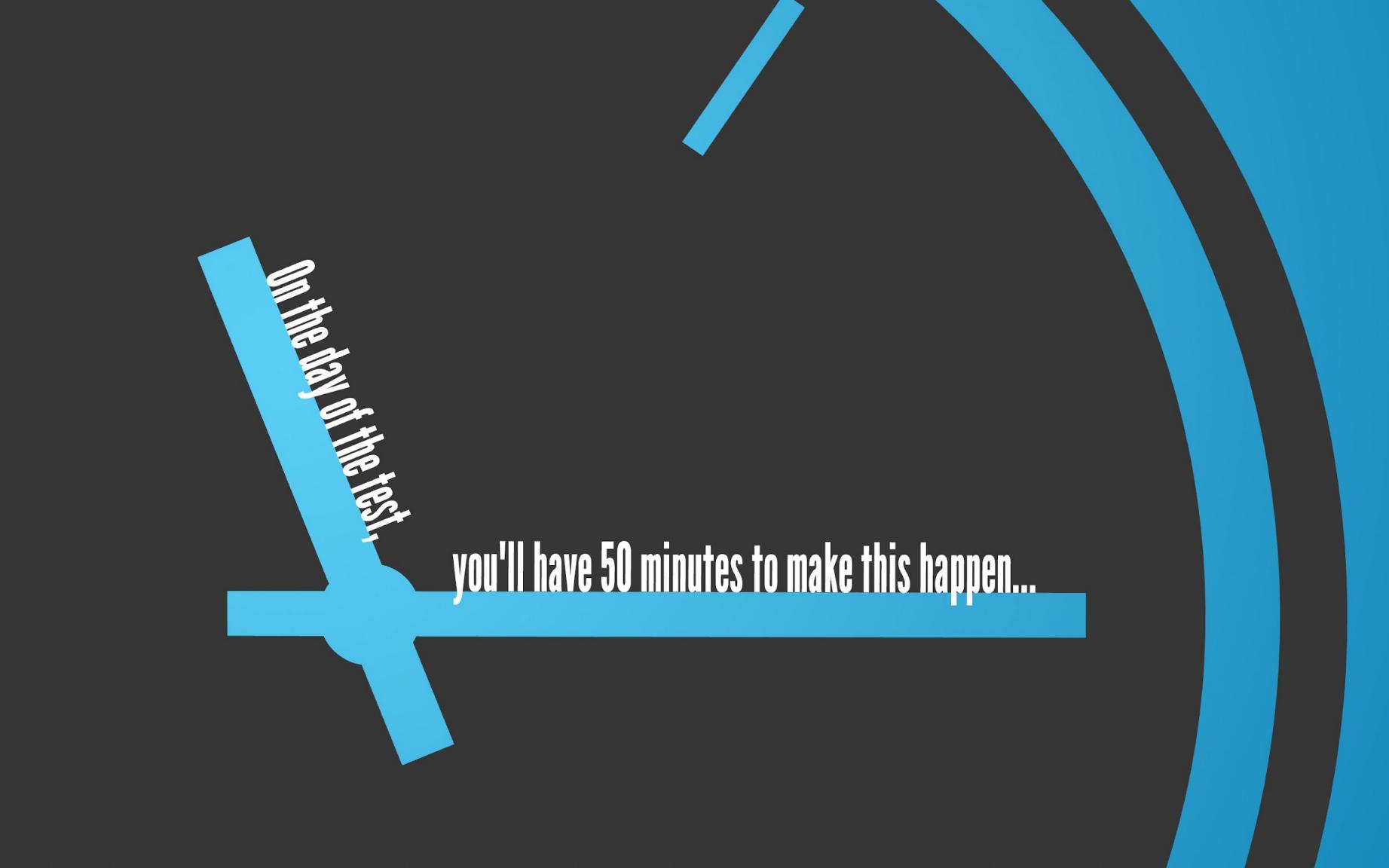


BY THE WAY,

the ability to analyze an argument
is the same skill set you'll need in
college and adult life.

adult life.

So even if you never take the SAT,
you still should be able to do
what we're about to learn.



On the day of the test,
you'll have 50 minutes to make this happen...

you'll have 50 minutes to make this happen...



On the day of...



BUT DON'T WORRY

THERE'S A KEY TO UNLOCK THIS CHALLENGE

On the day of...

HERE'S WHAT THE COLLEGE BOARD WANTS:

(All of the top-scoring samples released so far by the test organizers have these characteristics)

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A 5-paragraph essay structure

Clear identification of three specific rhetorical devices in the thesis

Examination of each device – one per body paragraph

A clear, efficient writer's voice with a bit of advanced vocabulary

HERE'S WHAT THE COLLEGE BOARD WANTS:

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Examination of each device – one per body paragraph

A clear, efficient writer's voice with a bit of advanced vocabulary

Let's take a closer look...

Intro

Intro paragraph is just 1-3 sentences
Cite author and title of work as you summarize the person's
stance in your own words
In your thesis statement, identify three rhetorical tools
the author uses



Body Paragraphs

Need three total (one per rhetorical device) you have chosen to examine
Each body paragraph will be 4-6 sentences
Present a specific rhetorical device by directly quoting a small passage
and then explaining why the author would choose to use it and
what effect this device has on the reader

Examples of
rhetorical tools: Quality of statistical information presented
Quality of sources cited by the author
Connotative qualities of specific word choices
Use of logical reasoning
Use of emotional appeals

Use of hyperbole
Use of allusion to other famous works
Use of rhetorical questions to engage the reader
Use of figurative language
Structure of argument (presenting evidence from weakest to strongest)
...and many, many others

Conclusion

3-4 sentences
Restate thesis in fresh words
Ex: When one considers the author's use of x, y, and z, it is clear that...
End with a kicker or lingering thought

Intro

Intro. paragraph is just 3-4 sentences

Cite author and title of work as you summarize the person's
stance in your own words

In your thesis statement, identify three rhetorical tools
the author uses



Sample thesis statements from top-scoring essays released by the College Board:
Ex. #1: [The author] effectively builds his argument by using a personal anecdote, allusions to art and history, and rhetorical questioning.
Ex. #2: Strategic [the author] employs to support his argument include citation of competing polls, reports made by prominent organizations that have issued studies, and a quotation from a prominent author.

Sample thesis statements from top-scoring essays released by the College Board:

Ex. #1: [The author] effectively builds his argument by using a personal anecdote, allusions to art and history, and rhetorical questioning.

Ex. #2: Strategies [the author] employs to support his argument include citation of compelling polls, reports made by prominent organizations that have issued studies, and a quotation from a prominent author.

Sample thesis statements from top-scoring essays released by the College Board:

Ex. #1: [The author] effectively builds his argument by using a personal anecdote, allusions to art and history, and rhetorical questioning.

Ex. #2: Strategies [the author] employs to support his argument include citation of compelling polls, reports made by prominent organizations that have issued studies, and a quotation from a prominent author.

See, that's not so tough...right?

Body Paragraphs

Need three total (one per rhetorical device you have chosen to examine)

Each body paragraph will be 4-8 sentences

Present a specific rhetorical device by directly quoting a small passage
and then explaining why the author would choose to use it and
what effect this device has on the reader

Examples of rhetorical tools:

- Quality of statistical information presented
- Quality of sources cited by the author
- Connotative qualities of specific word choices
- Use of logical reasoning
- Use of emotional appeals

Use of emotional appeals

Use of hyperbole

Use of allusion to other famous works

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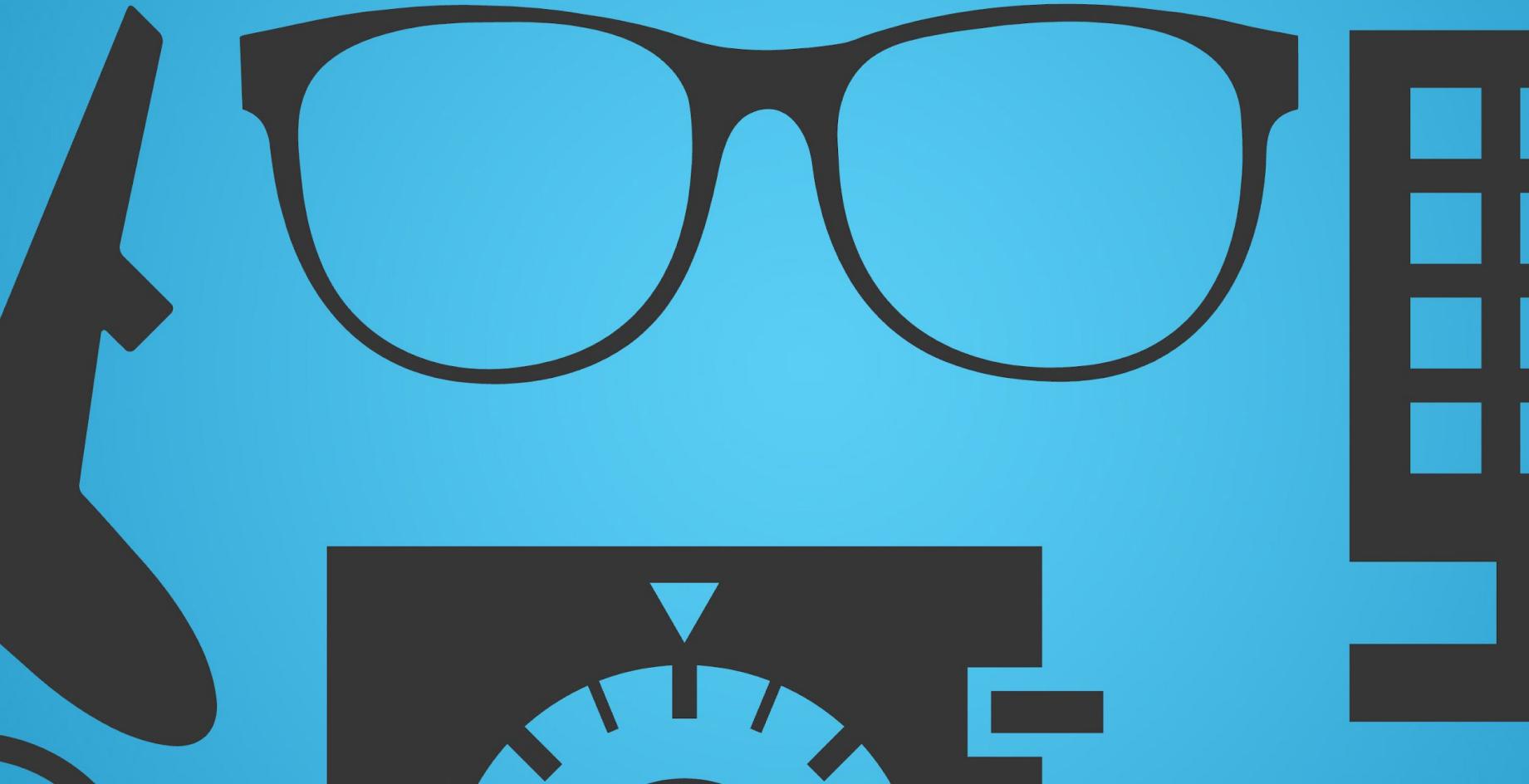
Conclusion

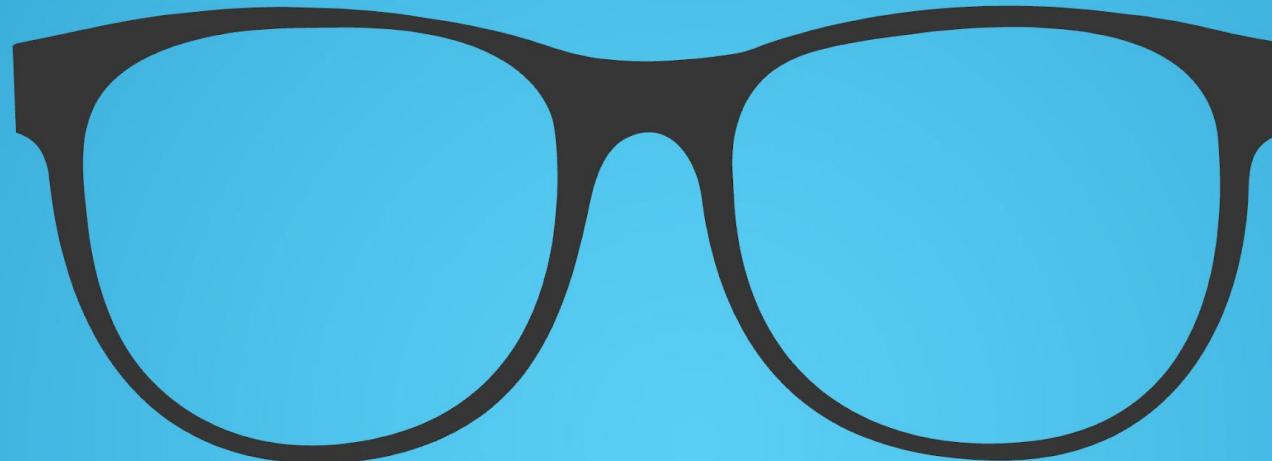
3-4 sentences

Restate thesis **in fresh words**

Ex: When one considers the author's use of x, y, and z, it is clear that...

End with a kicker or lingering thought





WHO SEES THIS ESSAY?



It depends...

**Colleges decide for themselves if they want to consider
SAT Essay scores as part of their admissions process.**

It depends...

**Colleges decide for themselves if they want to consider
SAT Essay scores as part of their admissions process.**

Some will require the essay.

Some will recommend the essay.

Some will neither require nor recommend the essay.

Sample list of schools:

Require

Recommend

Neither require
nor recommend

Sample list of schools:

Require

Duke Princeton

Harvard Texas A&M

Howard UCLA

Recommend

Neither require
nor recommend

Sample list of schools:

Require

Duke Princeton

Harvard Texas A&M

Howard UCLA

Recommend

Amherst Purdue

Baylor Rutgers

Oregon State Vanderbilt

Neither require nor recommend

Sample list of schools:

Require

Duke Princeton

Harvard Texas A&M

Howard UCLA

Recommend

Amherst Purdue

Baylor Rutgers

Oregon State Vanderbilt

Neither require nor recommend

Columbia New York Univ.

Cornell Univ. of North Carolina

Notre Dame Wellesley

The College Board keeps an updated list here:

bit.ly/1K9X7Wg

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You'll also need to check the specific requirements
on each college's website,
as policies change over time.



HOW IS IT SCORED?

3 CATEGORIES
READING

ANALYSIS

WRITING

3 CATEGORIES READING

Can earn up to 4 pts. per category

4 = Advanced

3 = Proficient

2 = Partial

1 = Inadequate

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ANALYSIS

Two separate readers score the essay

Their two sets of scores are then
added together to determine the
final score

WRITING

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ANALYSIS

Two separate readers score the essay

Their two sets of scores are then
added together to determine the
final score

WRITING

Final score reported separately
from the rest of your SAT results

Sample Final Score:

6 - 7 - 6

Reading Analysis Writing

Scorer #1: 3-3-3

Scorer #2: 3-4-3





ANY QUESTIONS?

Don't worry.
We'll practice all of this.

UNLOCKING THE SAT ESSAY

