

WRITING QUICK GUIDE

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The SAT is evolving and there are too many formulas for me to memorize. If there are any updates or changes feel free to scan and see the updates along with get access to the newer version.

Clauses

Nonrestrictive

- The useless removable part of a sentence which when read without is logical.
- Offset either by a set of dashes (-), parenthesis (()), or commas (,)

Dependent

- A fragment which cannot stand on its own, missing either a subject or a verb

Independent

- A complete sentence which has both a subject and a verb

Punctuation

Comma ,

- Used in a list (first, second, third)
- Introductory Clause (In conclusion,)
- , + Coordinating Conjunction (, + FANBOY) is used like a period to separate two independent clauses (IC+ , CC + IC)
- Used as the start and end of a nonrestrictive clause
- Connect a independent and a dependent clause (IC, DC)

Semicolon ;

- Used in a complex list, one which has commas within items. (Miami, Florida; Los Angeles, California; Dallas, Texas)
- Used like a period to separate two independent clauses (IC ; IC)

Period .

- Used to separate two independent clauses. Ends a sentence which must have a subject and verb

Dash -

- Used near the end of a sentence to explain or summarize the preceding information
- Used to introduce a list
- Used to offset a nonrestrictive clause

Colon :

- Require a IC preceding it (need a complete thought before the colon).
- Used to answer or explain
 - ex. She had only one goal: to win the competition. (you would think what goal? and after the colon it would be answered

Parentheses ()

- Used to hold additional information, or a nonrestrictive clause

Possessives

Look at everything before the apostrophe(') ALL OF THAT is your subject
That subject is the one possessing what follows.

The Scientists' Book
Plural possessing the book

The Scientist's Book
Singular possessing the book

**** TRAP** Period = Semicolon = , + FANBOY**

Options with the same meaning
are wrong on the test.

Parallel Structure is KEY (ex. running, flying, soaring)

Singular Subject > Plural Verb & Plural Subject > Singular Verb

The boy runs

The boys run

Approaching Questions

Which Effectively Combines...

- Start with shortest answer, usually correct
- make sure no essential information is removed
- make sure correct punctuation usage

Transitions

- Read before and after, SKIP THE TRANSITION WHICH IS IN THE TEXT
- See the relation between before and after and determine the word which fits that connection
- See what the question asks you to connect, the passage, different paragraphs, parts of a sentence...

Author Choice... Should the author ...

- Read the passage for context
- see if the sentence or change is relevant and makes sense (connects to the passage and is fitting)
- After choosing yes or no, look at those choices and choose between the reasons given
 - if none of the reasons make sense, REASSESS YOUR INITIAL CHOICE

Purpose/Which relates to passage or paragraph

- READ WHAT THEY WANT YOU TO KNOW AND COME BACK AND ANSWER
- You need to know the passage/paragraph to answer these

Graph analysis... which most accurately represents data from the table/graph

- READ THE GRAPH
- This question should be a free point. Look at the choices and see if the graphic shows that statement to be true or false.
- Make sure if the data is true, IT IS RELEVANT TO THE PASSAGE

Punctuation/Grammar Rules

- THINK BACK TO PAGE ONE
- Know your rules
- Track the clauses and mark them as IC (Independent) or DC (dependent)
- Cross out the nonrestrictive clauses
- Work with what you know about connecting clauses with the correct punctuation

Sentence Placement

If being asked if a sentence should be added to the passage.

- Read the paragraph
- ask yourself if there were any cuts/gaps
- read the sentence being proposed
- see where that topic was discussed in the paragraph
- add it in the logical placement
-

If the sentence is already in the passage

- Read the paragraph where the question is
- SKIP the sentence which is being debated
- Ask yourself if any areas with gaps
- Read the sentence and ask where it would best fit
 - aka where the topic of the sentence was being discussed

Tips & Tricks

- Shorter is TYPICALLY better (make sure not removing essential information as that would make it wrong.)
- The goal is low levels of wordiness and redundancy
- The word BEING in a choice makes it wrong 99%
- Always read the passage for context and go in order of passages
- Mark questions to come back to AND COME BACK
- It is "Could Have" not "Could Of"
 - that goes for Could Would Should and Might
- For Vocabulary, match the tone and use what you know to eliminate choices.

Any questions? Feel free to reach out!

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