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&#x200B; According to the College Board the Analysis portion of the Essay should "demonstrate an understanding of how the author builds an argument by examining the author's use of reasoning and persuasive techniques and supporting claims with well-chosen evidence from the passage." There are 2 parts to this. a) Show that you understand how authors create persuasive arguments b) Identify and present evidence of those persuasive techniques So, you need to be able to identify the most prominent persuasive elements and then write about how the author uses those elements to build his or her argument. STEP 1--Identify the Rhetorical devices used What follows is not an exhaustive list of rhetorical devices you might encounter on the new SAT Essay, but this is a good starting point. I have split them into the larger categories of Logos, Ethos and Pathos, but some of these devices fall into more than one category, so don't get too hung up on that. LOGOS Statistics Perhaps the easiest to identify. Statistics are numbers used to suggest factual information. But beware statistics are open to interpretation. Factual Evidence (examples) Factual evidence occurs when the author offers examples of something or provides proof. Reasoning Reasoning is the use of a logical progression of ideas to come to a conclusion. Analogy Analogy is used when the author makes an extended comparison between 2 things which are alike in many respects to suggest that they may be alike in other respects. Comparison Comparison is when the author compares limited aspects of 2 or more things. Challenging Assumptions Challenging Assumptions occurs when the author wants to present a radical argument, but in order to do so, old ideas must be removed first. Hypotheticals Hypotheticals are the weakest form of logical argument because they rely on imaginary situations. However, in limited circumstances, they can form the base of a larger argument. ETHOS Credibility of the Author Authors establish their credibility through experience, education, past actions and even just charisma. Credibility of Contributor (person or group) This is the same as credibility of the author except that the author is using someone else's credibility to build the argument. When this is referred to a appeal to authority it can become a logical fallacy because we are merely trusting someone in authority. PATHOS Diction Diction is also referred to a word choice. English has a vast vocabulary and many words have specific connotations in addition to their denotations. Those connotations carry emotional weight. For Example, thin versus emaciated. Thin has a positive connotation (when speaking about people), but emaciated has a negative connotation. Syntax Syntax is the structure of sentences. Certain sentences due to their constructions are inherently more persuasive than others. Concession/Refutation Concession happens when the author concedes to the oppositions points and agrees they are valid. Refutation is the anticipation of an attack and an explanation why the opposition's point of view is invalid. These strategies are persuasive because they create the sense that the author has considered all sides of the issue and thus is giving an less biased point of view. Anecdote Anecdotes are short descriptions of events that are designed to set up a point or evoke a feeling in the reader. Rhetorical Questions Rhetorical Questions are questions posed to the reader that have an obvious or intended answer. Appeal to Identity (we) Appeal to Identity can involve more than one rhetorical strategy, but at its heart it creates a sense of belonging with the reader through appeal to experience, the use of collective pronouns (we, us), the use of 2nd person (you), and flattery. STEP 2--Explain them correctly in your essay Too frequently, students write something like to following as their analysis. In paragraph 3, Miller uses statistics such as "15%" and "30,000,000" to prove his point. Statistics are very convincing to the audience. ARGH! Nope. First, eliminate the word "prove" from your essays. Authors don't prove anything in an essay, they support arguments, present persuasive evidence, or demonstrate logic, but they don't prove anything. Next, don't assume that the reader or audience is convinced. You can't know this. Also your job isn't to analyze a reaction, but to analyze what did the author do. Try this In paragraph 3, Miller bolsters his argument that the self-published e-book market is growing and a viable opportunity for many authors. He uses statistics such as "15% of uploaded books" and "30,000,000 sales" to support his position. These statistics provide support for his argument because they present tangible data that is more persuasive than mere opinion. The focus remains on what the author did, not on how the reader will respond, and evidence from the given essay is integrated. Some students have used templates to help them improve their analysis score. College Panda's SAT Essay book has a serviceable template you can follow, and you can download his e-book from Amazon for less than \$10. My SAT Reading Books are available for Free from the following links Guide to SAT Reading: Literature Passages Guide to SAT Reading: Global Conversation Passages &#x200B; From 3.5 billion comments Looking for the best books to study for the ACT® test? My name is Brooke- I've been tutoring the ACT® for well over a decade, and have both scored perfectly on the exam and coached a student to a perfect score.Based on my years of experience tutoring, we've compiled this list to help you out.ACT® Test Prep Books tend to fall in 4 different categories: 1. Official Prep Materials 2. Subject-Specific Strategy Guides (Often written by independent tutors) 3. All Around Strategy Guides 4. All-In-One Prep BooksDISCLAIMER: Before we get started, it's very important that you know that the ACT® has undergone changes in the last couple of years. Some of these books will reflect these changes better than others. They started rolling out in about April of 2014, and have continued through September of 2016. As a result, when you use a book, be sure you are aware of what applies and what might not.Check out our blogs on the New ACT® and the NEW New ACT® Essay for a rundown of those changes. Some of these books may not reflect changes, but that doesn't make them useless. Much of the test is the same, so I didn't want to discount anything that didn't have everything 100% right.Official MaterialsThe BEST WAY to prepare for the test is to use REAL TESTS and learn from those real tests. Take a real test. Go over the answers. Learn from it. Official material makes up 70-80% of what I use with my students. We go over every practice test students take and use these as a method of figuring out what an individual student needs to work on. We also use them as a learning opportunity.As we review each question we ask:What did I do wrong?How can I get this type of problem right next time?Are there any rules or skills I need to learn to do get the right answer on the test?If you don't have a tutor — we have an option for you. Our online prep videos go through EVERY question in the Official ACT® Guide (and in the REAL ACT® Prep Guide now out of print for even more prep).If you buy our series on the new guide (The Official ACT® Prep Guide 2016-2107), we'll send you the book for free.Taking practice tests and then going over each question and learning how to better approach similar questions is one of the best ways to prepare for the exam. Yes, you can get some tests for free online — but having the actual book(s) is helpful for a couple of reasons.It's already printed out. It's hard enough to make the time to study for this test, and having everything printed is better and easier. Practicing from a screen is not ideal (most students read more slowly and many of the techniques I teach involve taking notes on the page- which you can't do on a screen).It includes answer explanations — the official books include typed out explanations will help you review, so you understand the solutions better. They aren't as comprehensive as what you get with our course or a tutor but they are better than nothing.So when it comes to buying official materials, it's a bit confusing because ACT® just released a new book this past year. The old book, however, is still floating around in some bookstores and libraries. Here's a run down of the two official guides you might run into:1. The Real ACT®, 3rd Edition (Real ACT® Prep Guide) — out of print (Old book)This is the old version of the ACT (pre 2014) — granted, the changes made to the exam since then have been mostly minor with the exception of the essay (brand new essay, dual reading passages, fewer science passages, new items in math, etc.). For a full rundown of what's changed, again, check out our blogs on the New ACT® and the NEW New ACT® Essay. They'll run you through the epic saga of changes to the test that have taken place in the last couple of years. A few notes on this edition:5 full length tests included (we offer explanations on our site to ALL five tests!)doesn't include changes for 2014still good prep with with real tests for practicemany questions (math especially) repeat in both the tests and the "bonus questions" of new bookTest 4 & 5 are combined to make test #3 in new book (with the exception of the math section)Out of print but available used on Amazon or at your local libraryMy advice for using this book:Skip all the math sections except test #5 (do that test :)), and use this book for English/Reading/Science with the exception of test #4 Reading & Science- wait on those and take in the new book, and test #5 in the English- again that's in the new book, too.2. The Official ACT® Prep Guide 2020This is the updated guide- but it's not perfect. A few tests are a recycled hodgepodge of the old book's math sections (save for about 10 new questions per section reflecting test updates as of 2014-2016- mostly probability questions).Five "real" ACT® tests. The first four exams appear to be identical to the previous editions of this guide. I've noted the form codes these were sourced from below in case you know of these past exams. Test 1 (diagnostic): English, Reading, Science (Jun 2015 73C), Math (73C+10 random questions from The Real ACT® Prep Guide exams, mix of exams, and a few originals). (Code 16MC1) Test 2: English, Reading, Science (Apr 2015 73G), Math (random questions from The Real ACT® Prep Guide exams, mostly from Exam #2, and a few originals). (Code 16MC2) Test 3 :English (Test 5 from Real ACT® Prep Guide), Reading, Science (Test 4 from Real ACT® Prep Guide), Math (Many from test 4 from the Real ACT® Prep Guide, some random from that Guide, plus a few 73G questions and a few originals.) (Code 16MC3) Test 4: June 2017 Code 74C (Code 18MC4), all sections Test 5: Dec 2017 Code A10 (Code 19MC5), all sectionsIf you buy the prep course on our website, you get this book for free!For our company's internal reference spreadsheet on the questions that overlap between the books, we created this somewhat complicated pdf. Not guaranteeing it's 100% accurate, but if you're hard core this might help you squeeze every last problem out of these books without repeating.Repeat Questions - ReferenceI recommend getting this book (with our course ) and doing every test in it! Then you can either get the old book and run those tests that don't overlap OR use the bonus questions in the pdf.Other sources for official tests:For your convenience, we have the "officially" distributed practice tests from ACT® on our resources page. Many of them are the older, pre-2014 test, though the most recent test reflects the current form of the exam. Our trial version of the course includes explanations to the two most recent pdfs here.You can also likely find more real tests with a Google search or on Reddit r/ACT®. Some have been uploaded illegally by dodgy foreign-hosted websites. We can't vouch for these sites so proceed at your own risk with those.Individual Section Strategy GuidesThese are written by independent tutors and usually only cover one section of the test at a time. These are a good way to focus studying once have determined your weak sections (particularly for scores below 29).English!m working on creating an ACT® English book right now— sign up for our mailing list if you want to know when it's released— when it is available we'll have a link here, too.In the meantime, for English the best books available are the College Panda and Erica Meltzer.Neither are perfect (each have a few dodgy questions and typos), but both are pretty helpful and more comprehensive than the big brand books on the market.1. Nielson Phu: The College Panda's ACT® English: Advanced Guide and Workbook I generally like the exercises for practice. He tends to have longer practice sets than Meltzer and often more challenging problems. As a tutor I tend to use this book most often as practice, not teaching, is what I need most.He isn't as awesome at categorizing and explaining rules as Meltzer. Sometimes he calls things by the wrong name or explains rules in a weird way— and other times he just shows examples of what is right and what is wrong without explaining what the rule at play is. Many can still learn from just seeing the right vs. wrong sentence, but if you need more explanation Meltzer might be a better pick for you.2. Erica Meltzer: The Compete Guide to ACT® English, 3rd EditionBetter at explaining the grammar rules and is a bit more accurate in her grammar know-how than Phu.Sometimes her exercises are a bit too easy (particularly her mock tests)Her practice sets also sometimes focus on one idea so much, that she doesn't replicate some of the really tricky little questions that sneak into the tests at time.Book 1: AlgebraBook 2: Numbers, Stats, Trig and GeometryThe Best ACT® Math Books Ever by elite tutor Brooke Hanson cover more ACT® math than any other book on the market, with over 1000 practice drills (the equivalent of over 16 practice ACT® math tests) between the two volumes in addition to hundreds of step-by-step example problems.With plenty of practice, it's perfect for scorers at any level.Here is a rundown of a few other books- each have their weaknesses.Shorter than either of our two guidesDoesn't cover every type of problem on the testMore catered to people scoring about 26-29; not enough tough problems, nor teaching on the basics.Better for more introductory concepts (ideal for people scoring below 26)Divided by topic (each "skill" is a single topic)Not enough practice to prepare (only like 5 practice problems for each skill)May suffice for cramming and last minute preparation, not much elseorganized by overall topics has no "practice sets" but instead is constant problem / solution / problem / solution format (for that reason I rarely use as a tutor)need more practice sets to look in knowledgeAnnoyingly paired with science, so most math sections are barely more than 200 pages- not enough for all the content from 4 years of math you are required to knowNot as organized or targeted as the other books, which makes it easier to waste time going over things you don't needClump too many types of problems together- sorted by "topic" but often "geometry" is as science as it gets.Don't cover every type of problem; many aren't updated for 2014-2016 changes as of this blog post.The best way to work on the reading section is PRACTICE (ideally with real tests). That means if you need a better reading score- get some more real materials and keep practicing!In my online video courses I go through reading sections and also walk you through how to approach a passage. Using these videos is a great way to understand the strategy and prep for this section. If you still want pointers, there's really only one book on the market worth purchasing.Here's a rundown:it gives timing strategies and lays out how to approach this sectionvery thin book (be warned!)most useful for the strategy (not so many practice problems- and the practice is less helpful than the advice)ScienceAgain PRACTICE is your best friend for this section. If you struggle here, practice practice practice!But if you need strategy check out Michael Cerro's book, which offers strategy in approaching the science section.Michael Cerro: For the Love of ACT® Science: An innovative Approach to Mastering the Science Section of the ACT® Standardized Examit's thin but concise and strategy basedfocuses on how to be efficient in the test (save time for tough problems!)broken down into question types (and the tools needed for each one)EssayFor free advice on the essay, and information on the latest changes to the grading rubric and prompt, check out these blog posts we have available:ACT® Essay Do's and Don'tsHow to Write the New ACT® EssayFree ACT® Essay Sample PromptsThis section is optional, but should you choose to take it there are three books that specifically address the ACT® essay and are most helpful. I haven't used any of the books myself, as I teach the essay section in my own way, but I have used the older version of Phu's and Clement's writings.In reading these guides, be careful not to believe too easily that there is a "quick fix" to a perfect essay score. The task is now complex and it's not as easy as it used to be.Old book offered some good advice for organization or upping particularly low essay scores (i.e. 6/12 or below). I assume his new book recycles some of those tips.As a writer, Phu more insight into the nuances of the test!m also working on writing a guide for the essay- we'll put a link here when it's out!When it comes to my own students, though, I don't use any of the guides I mentioned, because I find the biggest struggle a lot of my students have is with writing skills themselves. Thus I recommend more general writing books.free on the Kindlegood for understanding "power" sentences and writing conciselytools for different ways to construct sentencesexplains writing techniques and the effects of the techniquesexplains how to create a conversation in writing (so important on the new ACT® essay!)gives templates for academic writing and how to work with that style of thinkingThese are basically guides by independent tutors that don't have any practice problems in them. They're little booklets that are all about strategy. If you don't have a private tutor, these books will give you access to some self study strategy and general rules of thumb that most tutors teach.King is a good tutor - she has helpful advice and practical insightsActionable strategies to self studying! personally am not a huge fan of this book, mostly because I'm not into the tone of voice of the writer (he seems as if he's selling an infomercial-esque ACT® guide IMO)- you can download the first chapter for free from Amazon and see what you think.Has some good tipsTone of the book I personally found a bit exhausting (every tip he has is a SECRET or the BEST- it's all a bit hyperbolic and I'm skeptical that all his advice is SO good — as a tutor I think some things work for some people, while other things work for others)I haven't used this book but it has tutor strategy AND some practice questions!t won't reflect new changes to the essay or the "new" testMost students don't need ANY of these- I rarely use any of these books with my students. The best thing to practice from is real tests and second to that is advice from experienced independent tutors who know what works. These books don't have that.They do have example tests to practice but I wouldn't recommend turning to those unless you have exhausted your real practice tests.If you do need extra practice on tests, these are some that I like a bit better.1. Chris Arp: Up Your Score: ACT®, 2016-2017 Edition: The Underground GuideHis book is written in a more energetic language than some competitors.If you really don't have the energy, time or desire to deal with a different book for every section, this could be an OK overall guide.2. Princeton Review: Cracking the ACT® with 6 Practice Tests, 2017 Edition: The Techniques, Practice, and Review You Need to Score Higher (College Test Preparation)If you've exhausted all real tests, Princeton are some of my favorite (particularly the science sections for added practice).If you're getting other strategy guides by tutors, you can probably skip this book and go straight for the 1400 Practice questions one.3. Manhattan Prep: 5 lb. Book of ACT® Practice ProblemsNo strategy really here but solid practice problems throughout.These tend to be better written than Kaplan or McGraw Hill.Nice Trig section in the math if you need more Trig practice (but not subdivided by type beyond "Trig").Lacks updates that reflect 2014+ test (unless it's been revised since I ordered).4. Ann Summers: Barron's ACT® 36, 3rd Edition: Aiming for the Perfect ScoreEveryone thinks this is going to be the perfect book if they want a 36 — in many cases it's just not.It's ok for challenging yourself, but the questions are so hard it's hard to get an accurate read on section timing (which is one of the elements so many of my students need to work on).I will sometimes use with students who don't struggle with time, but rather struggle with challenging questions.5. Kaplan Test Prep: ACT® 2016-2017 Strategies, Practice, and Review with 6 Practice Tests: Online + Book (Kaplan Test Prep)Not as strong as the others (tests just aren't as tight to ACT® style).Would only suggest if you're not getting what you need from other sources.6. Stephen W. Dulan: McGraw-Hill Education ACT® 2017 Edition Also not as in the character of the test as it could be — I don't use it.7. Varsity Tutors: ACT® Prep Study Guide: Lessons, Strategies, and Diagnostic Tests!t's free— I haven't really used it with students as I like printed books.If you're on a budget you could check it out.PHEW!That was quite a list.I hope you all felt this was helpful.To make it easier for you guys, all books recommended on this blog post can be found on our Amazon page. HAPPY STUDYING!FINAL NOTES:If I haven't mentioned a book, it's probably because either (A) I don't think it's that useful (big brand individual subject books on the English and Reading fall into this category) or (B) I haven't used it.Please note this list includes Amazon affiliate links, which help support our blog and free YouTube Videos. No one has paid us to sponsor or include any books on this list.

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