

SAT Essay

Cheatsheet

Rhetorical Devices

- Facts and Evidences
 - o There is data that backs up their claim
 - o Empowers the readers to connect the dots on their own
 - o Reader can come to the same conclusion rather than the author telling the reader how to think
- Anecdotes
 - o Relatable/interesting to the reader
 - o Personal connection with experiences
 - o Empathy
- Counterarguments and counterclaims
 - o Makes it seem like the discussion is going to be more “fair”
 - o Shows a deeper understanding of the topic
- Explanation of evidence
 - o The reader can follow along and understand the author’s argument better
- Vivid language
 - o Draws readers into the passage
 - o Higher engagement as passage is more interesting
- Direct addresses
 - o Causes readers to emotionally agree with the author’s claims
 - o Appeals to emotion
- Rhetorical questions
 - o The reader engages with the topic on a deeper level
 - o Lets the readers think deeply about the topic

Phrases to use

(Introduction) [Author]’s [title] directs our attention to... / sounds an alarm about ...

(Introduction) In the article [title], [author] argues a point that [claim]. Strategies [author] employs to communicate the claim are [X], [Y] and [Z].

The author’s use of evidence such as statistics/data appeals to the reader’s affinity for logic and logical structure (logos).

The author recounts an anecdote, thereby appealing to the reader’s feelings and emotions or stages of life (pathos).

The author alludes to studies/cites quotes from established individuals/professionals in order to appeal to the reader’s feeling that the author is credible, trustworthy, and of good character (ethos)

(Conclusion) Author's rhetorical decisions to use [X], [Y] and [Z] promote successful accomplishment of his/her purpose that [claim]. In a final evaluation of [article title] by [author], it is clear that the author strengthens the persuasive appeal and his/her logic to the readers/audience.