

DO NOW:

1. Make sure paper is assembled and stapled - final copy on top of draft, rubric in back facing out
2. Complete #1-12 of Grammar Practice - Grammarlicious!
3. Take out SAT stuff

**Subject – Verb Agreement/
Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement**

| Singular | Singular OR Plural | Plural |
|--|--|--|
| Anyone Anybody No one Nobody One Someone Somebody Everyone Everybody Each | <p>Some</p> <p>Most</p> <p>All</p> <p>Any</p> <p>None</p> <p>*Depends on the prepositional phrase following the subject (Some of the <i>cake</i> was left. – “cake” is singular) (Most of the <i>boys</i> participated in the game. – “boys” is plural)</p> | Both Few Many Others Several |
| <p>If both subjects are singular connected by:</p> Or Nor Either...or Neither...nor | <p>Either...or</p> <p>Neither...nor</p> <p>*The verb agrees with the noun closest to the verb (Neither the teachers nor the <i>student</i> knows where to go) vs. (Neither the student nor the <i>teachers</i> know where to go)</p> | |

Verb Tense:

***Present Perfect:** *Began in the past and continued into the future
(ex. *I have taught for over thirty years.*)

or

*Expresses action that has been completed at an indefinite time.

(ex. *He has finished eating **already.***)

***Past Perfect:** to express action completed before another past action in the sentence.

(ex. *I **had taught** for thirty years when I **retired.***)

Future Perfect: to express action that is completed before another future action.

(ex. *I **will have finished** painting before you **arrive.***)

Infinitive – (is to + the original form of the verb) to express an action that follows another action.

(ex. *John said that he hoped **to arrive** soon.)*

Pronoun Case:**Singular**

| | Nominative | Objective | Possessive |
|------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1st person | I | me | my, mine |
| 2nd person | you | you | your, yours |
| 3rd person | he, she, it, who | him, her, it whom | his, hers, its, whose |

Plural

| | Nominative | Objective | Possessive |
|------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| 1st person | We | Us | Our, ours |
| 2nd person | You | You | Your, yours |
| 3rd person | they, who | them, whom | their, theirs, whose |

Complete Qs in Book ← Grammar Rules Do Now!!

(examples taken from College Board SAT Prep Book)

B. VERB TENSES - He has finished writing his paper an hour ago. (X)

For the past hundred years or more, Yellowstone National Park was a kind of
 A Sociological laboratory in which North Americans have been exploring the
 C meaning of the national-park concept. No Error. (7.3.25)
 D E

Handwritten notes: "has been" and "(it still is)" with a circle around "was".

G. PARALLEL STRUCTURE- When I am sick, I love sitting by the fire, reading a good mystery and eat chicken soup. (X)

Look for a series in a sentence and check for pattern in parts of speech:

The classroom was filled with an exhausted teacher, screaming kids, and the
 hamster got loose.

Handwritten notes: "ADS N ADS N" above "exhausted" and "screaming"; "N V ADS" above "hamster got loose".

A A talented and versatile artist, Twyla Tharp has been a dancer, choreographer,
 and a collaborator.
 B C
 D and collaborated on various productions. No Error. (1.7.18)
 E

Handwritten notes: "V prep ADS N" circled around "and collaborated..."; "N N" above "dancer, choreographer, and a collaborator".

Not Only...But Also – see page 12

A healthy economy can be measured not only by the growth of business but it has
 a psychological effect on people.

(A) It has a
 (B) As well in the
 (C) Also by the
 (D) Also the
 (E) In the way of having a

Handwritten notes: "correlative conj." with an arrow pointing to "not only...but"; "Not Only -> but also" written in large letters.

- to the right
- on the right
- Under the blue dot.
- above the green dot
- On the SB
- in the middle
- by

Carlos gave
the ball
to Jack and me. I.

object of prep

Objective/Nominative

↓ ↓

Predicate Subject
(verb + everything else)

Sandy and me (I) are looking

S-Verb Agreement for shells.
* Subject.

A box of matches (is) are on the table.

prep

Nominative (Subject)

prepositional

H. ADJECTIVE/ADVERB

She ate too quick and then got a stomach ache. (X)

I ran _____ at today's race (good/well).

Because I practice often, I'm a _____ runner (good/well).

I. COMPARISONS ("APPLES TO ORANGES")

The juniors at our school scored much higher on the PSAT than your school. (X)

The novel *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen was once more widely read and was more popular in high schools in the United States than Charlotte Bronte. No error

A → the novels of B

C D E

N. MISPLACED MODIFIER - *The designer dress was located by the saleswoman with the beaded sash. (X)*

Burdened with three pieces of luggage and a pair of skis, Sarah's search for a baggage cart was desperate.

(A) Sarah's search for a baggage cart was desperate
 (B) Sarah's desperate search was for a baggage cart
 (C) A baggage cart was what Sarah desperately searched for
 (D) A baggage cart for which Sarah desperately searched
 (E) Sarah searched desperately for a baggage cart

(1.7.2)

A. SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT – *Neither of the twins want to play football. (X)*

The governor's aides are convinced that the announcement of the investigation, coming just days before the filing deadline, were calculated to discourage the governor from running for reelection. No error

A was verb. C

B C D

(1.7.23)

O. DANGLING MODIFIER - *While eating dinner, the fireworks startled me. (X)*

Lacking good instruction, my mistake in creating a graph to illustrate historical trends were numerous.

- (A) ~~my mistakes in creating a graph to illustrate historical trends were numerous~~
 (B) made numerous mistakes in creating a graph to illustrate historical trends
 (C) ~~There were numerous mistakes in the graph I created to illustrate historical trends~~
 (D) ~~I created a graph to illustrate historical trends with numerous mistakes~~
 (E) ~~the graph I made for illustrating historical trends had numerous mistakes~~

(2.10.10)

R. PRONOUN SHIFT- *If one wishes to be successful in life, you must have a good work ethic. (X)*

F. IDIOMS (see page 36 in *20 Common Writing Errors*) - *He was concerned with his chances of getting admitted to an Ivy League school. (X)* with

Quick to take advantage of Melanie Johnson's preoccupation in the history of the Johnson

A B

C

family, the genealogist proposed investigating that history – for a large fee. No error. (1.7.28)

D

E

T. ACTIVE/PASSIVE VOICE - *The ball was hit into the stands by the batter. (X)*

Mr. Chung would like to retire, but retirement is unable to be afforded by him.

- (A) Mr. Chung would like to retire, but retirement is unable to be afforded by him.
 (B) Mr. Chung would like to retire, but he cannot afford to do so.
 (C) ~~Mr. Chung would like to retire, but he is unable to afford that.~~
 (D) ~~Retirement is what Mr. Chung would like to do, but he cannot afford it.~~
 (E) ~~Retirement appeals to Mr. Chung, but he cannot afford stopping working.~~

(5.4.1)

S. SENTENCE STRUCTURE -Terry Bradshaw was one of the most successful NFL quarterbacks he won three Super Bowls. (X)

By attracting new industry when the old factory closed, the council kept the economy of the town from collapsing, this was a disaster many workers had feared.

- (A) this was a disaster many workers had feared.
- (B) because many workers had feared a disaster
- (C) the fear many workers had would be a disaster
- (D) a disaster that many workers had feared
- (E) it was feared by many workers as a disaster

(1.7.4)

J. AMBIGUITY/INDEFINITE REFERENT

Linguistic research often requires fieldwork where they can study and record the spoken dialects of a region.

- (A) where they
- (B) through which they
- (C) and the linguist
- (D) during which the linguist
- (E) which they

(1.7.7)

C. Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement – When Jean and Ellen arrive, tell her I'm ready. (X)

Beatrix Potter completely transformed the traditional animal fable, and they had

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| A | B | C |
|---|---|---|

been used by other writers simply to illustrate moral lessons. No error. (1.7.12)

D

E

Other Key Rules:

K. Redundancy

L. Wordiness

M. Double Negative

P. Words Commonly Confused

Q. Who, Which, That

Name: _____

Grammar-licious!

Grammar Practice

Modifiers:

1. Lecturing at the university, read the poetry of Margaret Atwood was the advice Professor Clark gave her audience.
 - A. Read the poetry of Margaret Atwood was the advice Professor Clark gave her audience
 - B. The poetry of Margaret Atwood was what Professor Clark advised her audience to read
 - C. Her audience was advised by Professor Clark to read the poetry of Margaret Atwood
 - D. Margaret Atwood's poetry, advised Professor Clark, was what her audience should read
 - E. Professor Clark advised her audience to read the poetry of Margaret Atwood (1.10.3)

2. Although criticized by a few for her daredevil aviation escapades, most people viewed Amelia Earhart as a skillful pilot.
 - A. Most people viewed Amelia Earhart as a skillful pilot
 - B. Most people viewed Amelia Earhart to be a skillful pilot
 - C. A skillful pilot was what most people viewed Amelia Earhart as
 - D. Amelia Earhart was viewed by most people as a skillful pilot
 - E. Amelia Earhart, a skillful pilot in the view of most people

3. Of all the states represented at the conference, the governor of Missouri was the only one to present plans for enforcing the new regulations.
 - A. The governor of Missouri was the only one to present
 - B. Making the governor from Missouri the only one to present
 - C. Missouri's governor only presented
 - D. Missouri's governor presented the only
 - E. Missouri was the only one whose governor presented

Passive
George was faced with challenges
Active: George faces challenges

Subject-Verb Agreement

4. The harmful effects of smoking on the vascular system is increasingly well documented.
 - A. is increasingly well documented
 - B. is more and more documented
 - C. are increasingly well documented
 - D. are increasing in better documentation
 - E. has increased in better documentation

5. The number of awards given this year to biochemists accentuate the significant gains being made in the study of chemistry of living organisms. No error (540)

Singular [] A B C D E

6. Evidence from surveys and interviews show friendships made in high school tend to last longer than those made in college.

A. Show friendships made in high school tend to last
 B. Show high school friendships that tend to last
 C. Is showing high school friendships tending to last
 D. Shows that friendships made in high school tend to last
 E. Shows friendships in high school tend to last

plural pronoun

Singular *Everyone must follow their dreams.*

Pronoun-Ant

7. Until it can be replaced by a faster, more efficient, and more economical means of transportation, trucks will carry most of the freight within and through metropolitan areas. No error. (540)

They A B C D E

8. The reason first novels are so often their writers' best work is that it draws upon all the experiences of childhood.

A. is that it draws upon
 B. is that these first efforts draw upon
 C. is because of these first efforts drawing from
 D. is because of them drawing upon
 E. is their drawing from

9. Few issues of public policy are as likely to provide widespread interest as that involving possible danger to the health or safety of children. No error.

those A B C D E

Parallel Structure

10. Walt Disney's first success was his third Mickey Mouse film in which Disney produced a cartoon with sound, and Mickey was made to talk.

- A. sound, and Mickey was made to talk
- B. sound and making Mickey talk
- C. sound, with the result being Mickey talking
- D. sound in where Mickey talks
- E. Sound and made Mickey talk (558)

11. The tornado ripped through the central part of town, toppling small buildings, uprooting trees, and power lines were snapped.

- A. power lines were snapped
- B. power lines snapping
- C. snapping power lines
- D. snapped power lines
- E. power lines snapped

Pronoun Case (Objective vs. Nominative):

12. For we students, concern about impending tuition hikes was even more acute than

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| A | B | C |
| D | E | |
- apprehension about final exams. No error

Name: _____

English11R

PSAT/SAT

WRITING SECTION

Here are some general hints for **Identifying Sentence Errors**.

1. Read the entire sentence carefully but quickly.
2. Look at choices (A) through (D) to see whether anything needs to be changed to make the sentence correct.
3. Don't waste time searching for errors. Mark (E) **No error**, on your answer sheet if you believe the sentence is correct as written.
4. Move quickly through questions about Identifying Sentence Errors. The other kinds of questions (Improving Sentences and Improving Paragraphs) will probably take more time.
5. Mark questions that seem hard for you and return to them later.

If there is an error, select the one underlined part that must be changed to make the sentence correct. If there is no error, select E.

Sponsors of the Olympic Games who bought advertising
A
 time on United States television includes at least a dozen
B C
 international firms whose names are familiar to American
D
 consumers. No error.
E

If one is interested in learning even more about
A B C
 Zora Neale Hurston, you should read Robert
D
 Hemenway's biography. No error.
E

The starling is such a pest in rural areas that it has become
A B
 necessary to find ways of controlling the growth of their
C D
 population. No error.
E

In the early twentieth century, new thinking about symbolism
and the unconscious were greatly inspired by the writings of
Sigmund Freud and Carl Jung. No error.

A
B **C** **D**
E

Air pollution caused by industrial fumes has been studied
for years, but only recently has the harmful effects of
noise pollution become known. No error.

A
B **C**
D **E**

Pine, like other softwoods that ignite quickly, are
useful as kindling. No error.

A **B** **C**
D **E**

In many respects Anna Karenina and Emma Bovary are
very similar characters, but Bovary has the most spirit
and determination. No error.

A **B** **C** **D**
E

Improving Sentences

1. Read the entire sentence carefully but quickly. Note the underlined portion because that is the portion that may have to be revised.
2. Remember that the portion with no underline stays the same.
3. Mark choice (A) if the underlined portion seems correct. Check the other choices quickly to make sure that (A) is really the best choice.
4. Think of how you would revise the underlined portion if it seems wrong. Look for your revision among the choices given.
5. Replace the underlined portion of the sentence with choices (B) through (E) if you don't find your revision. Concentrate on the choices that seem clear and exact when you read them.

Directions:

In each of the following sentences, some part or all of the sentence is underlined. Below each sentence you will find five ways of phrasing the underlined part. Select the answer that produces the most effective sentence, one that is clear and exact, without awkwardness or ambiguity. In choosing answers, follow the requirements of standard written English. Choose the answer that best expresses the meaning of the original sentence.

Answer (A) is always the same as the underlined part. Choose answer (A) if you think the original sentence needs no revision.

1. Hearing that the Statue of Liberty did not have a pedestal, a campaign was begun by Joseph Pulitzer to raise money for the construction of one.

- (A) a campaign was begun by Joseph Pulitzer to raise money
- (B) a campaign to raise money was initiated by Joseph Pulitzer
- (C) money was raised in a campaign by Joseph Pulitzer
- (D) Joseph Pulitzer began a campaign to raise money
- (E) Joseph Pulitzer had campaigned to raise money

misplaced modifier

had + verb

2. One of the most common types of mistakes that inexperienced physicians make is misreading symptoms, another that occurs about as frequently is recommending inappropriate treatment.

- (A) symptoms, another that occurs
- (B) symptoms; another one that occurs
- (C) symptoms, the other, and it occurs
- (D) symptoms; another one which is occurring
- (E) symptoms and also occurring

3. Gordon Parks is almost as skillful a writer as he is a director.

- (A) almost as skillful a writer as he is a director
- (B) almost equally skilled, whether a writer or a director
- (C) of the same skill as a writer and as a director, almost
- (D) a skillful director, with almost as much skill in writing
- (E) skilled as a director and almost so skilled in writing

4. Looking at the context of the editorial, the words "abrupt" and "blitz" are meant to place the redevelopment program in an unfavorable light.

- (A) Looking at the context of the editorial
- (B) In the context of the editorial
- (C) When the editorial's context is looked at
- (D) Considering its context
- (E) Examining the editorial's context

5. Many drivers violate traffic laws knowingly and openly, in other respects they are law-abiding citizens, however.

- (A) Many drivers violate traffic laws knowingly and openly, in other respects they are law-abiding citizens, however.
- (B) Many drivers who are otherwise law-abiding citizens violate traffic laws knowingly and openly.
- (C) Many drivers violate traffic laws knowingly and openly and are otherwise law-abiding citizens.
- (D) Although otherwise law-abiding citizens, many drivers, however, violate traffic laws knowingly and openly.
- (E) Many drivers which violate traffic laws knowingly and openly are in other respects law-abiding citizens.

6. Underestimating its value, breakfast is a meal many people skip.

- (A) Underestimating its value, breakfast is a meal many people skip.
- (B) Breakfast is skipped by many people because of their underestimating its value.
- (C) Many people, underestimating the value of breakfast, and skipping it.
- (D) Many people skip breakfast because they underestimate its value.
- (E) A meal skipped by many people underestimating its value is breakfast.

7. Raised in a large and noisy family, it was only when I went away to college that I learned how refreshing solitude could be.

- (A) it was only when I went away to college that I learned how refreshing solitude could be
- (B) when I went away to college I learned how refreshing solitude could be
- (C) going away to college taught me how refreshing solitude could be
- (D) I did not learn how refreshing solitude could be until I went away to college
- (E) refreshing solitude was unknown to me until I went away to college

Improving Paragraphs.

1. Read the entire essay quickly to determine its overall meaning. The essay is meant to be a draft, so don't be surprised if you notice errors. Don't linger over those errors.
2. Make sure that your answer about a particular sentence or sentences makes sense in the context of the passage as a whole.
3. Choose the best answer from among the choices given, even if you can imagine another correct response.

Directions:

The following passage is an early draft of an essay. Some parts of the passage need to be rewritten. Read the passage and select the best answer for the question that follows. In making your decision, follow the conventions of standard written English. (Typical essays are approximately 225 words.)

Passage:

(1) Every year we hear more and more people complaining about the extended commercialism of the winter holiday season. (2) Every year stores put out decorations and holiday merchandise earlier and earlier. (3) Yet every year retailers complain that sales are not what they should be. (4) When will retailers learn? (5) The public knows how to keep its own schedule. (6) When we do not buy holiday gifts far in advance, shoppers are saying that they do not want to think about the winter holidays too early.

Question: which of the following is the best version of the underlined portion of sentence 6 (reproduced below) ?

When we do not buy holiday gifts far in advance, shoppers are saying that they do not want to think about the winter holidays too early.

- (A) When we do not buy holiday gifts far in advance, shoppers
- (B) When shoppers do not buy holiday gifts far in advance, they
- (C) In fact, shoppers' holiday gifts are not bought far in advance; they
- (D) Consequently, by our not buying these far in advance, shoppers
- (E) In contrast, when we do not do so, it is because shoppers

Passage:

(1) In the last fifty years, computers in many forms have become increasingly accessible. (2) For example, today the calculator is regarded as an essential tool for basic calculations by students and business people. (3) Word processing is considered indispensable by most writers, researchers, and office workers. (4) In addition, many families use computers to organize information, to balance budgets, and to provide entertainment.

Question: Which of the following would be the most suitable sentence to insert immediately after sentence 1?

- (A) The race is on to produce the "ultimate" computer.
- (B) I have found the computer somewhat difficult to learn to operate.
- (C) Many people are understandably intimidated by computers.
- (D) They are now so common that they have a profound effect on daily life.
- (E) Modern telephones belong to the family of computers.

Passage: (The paragraphs below are the first two paragraphs of a passage that appeared in the test.)

(1) I have just read an excellent book called "Having Our Say: The Delany Sisters' First 100 Years."
(2) Usually I do not enjoy autobiographies. (3) I could hardly put this one down. (4) It is about Sadie Delany, who is 103 years old, and her "little" sister Bessie, she is 101.
(5) The sisters grew up in North Carolina in times that were not easy for African Americans. (6) Around 1916 they moved to New York City and went to Columbia University at their father's urging.
(7) He tells them, "You are college material. (8) And if you don't go, shame on you!" (9) Sadie became a teacher and Bessie a dentist. (10) The second Black woman dentist in New York.

Question: In context, which is the best version of "He tells them" in sentence 7?

- (A) (As it is now)
- (B) Their father tells them,
- (C) This is because he tells them,
- (D) He had told them,
- (E) His suggestion was:

Passage: (The paragraph below is the first paragraph of a passage that appeared in the test.)

(1) Advertisements are present wherever we go. (2) They enter our houses in newspapers, magazines, and on our television screens. (3) Television advertisements are used not only to sell products but, more importantly, to sell ideas. (4) It is in selling ideas that ads have the most significant impact. (5) They interrupt most television programs every few minutes. (6) Many ads imply that if we buy specific products then we will be happy. (7) An example of this strategy is an ad in which a woman is shown driving her family in a new car. (8) She has a smile on her face, a new car will bring people happiness.

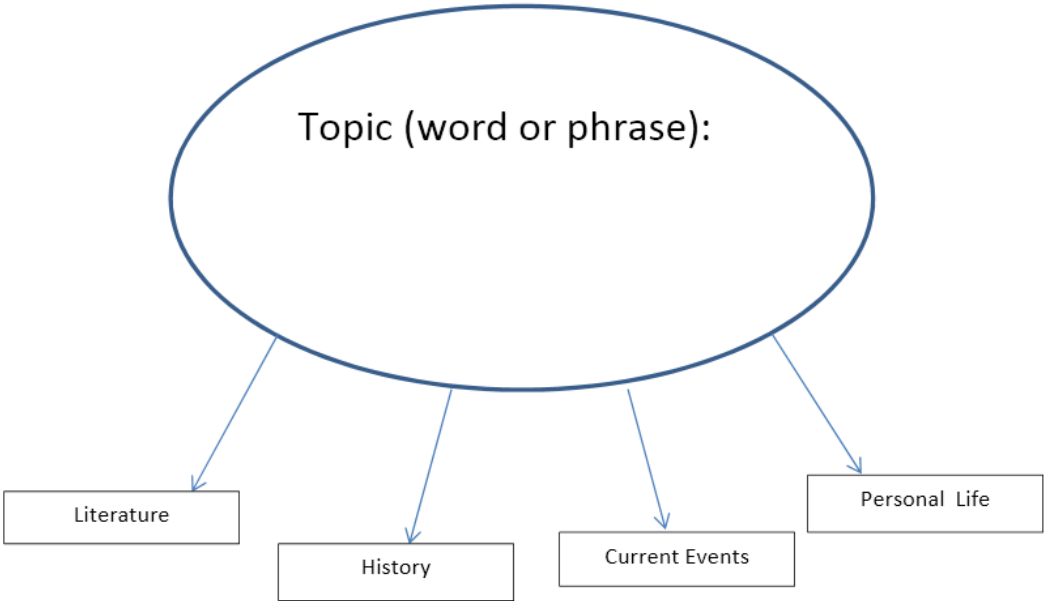
Question: Sentence 5 would make the most sense if placed after

- (A) Sentence 1
- (B) Sentence 2
- (C) Sentence 5
- (D) Sentence 6
- (E) Sentence 7

TIPS FOR ESSAY:

- Give yourself 2-3 minutes to brainstorm - it yields better, more thoughtful examples and a more organized essay. (Even though you'll feel compelled to put pen to paper immediately and race to the finish, take 2 minutes to think!)
- Answer the question/task firmly – if it's a yes/no, take a stance one way or the other. Even if you're ambivalent about the topic, don't give a wishy-washy answer in which you seem to contradict yourself.
- Use two examples!
- Avoid using two personal examples – it doesn't show a wide enough breadth of knowledge.
- Make direct connections to the task especially in your thesis and topic sentences.
- When writing about literature, include analysis of literary elements.
- Use high-level vocabulary APPROPRIATELY – don't throw in big words if you don't "own" them.
- Have A conclusion – if you are running out of time, at least include a concluding statement as your 4th paragraph.
- Proofread your work.

Question/Task: _____



SAT ESSAY PROMPTS

1. Test 7: “Tough challenges reveal our strengths and weaknesses.”
This statement is certainly true; adversity helps us discover who we are. Hardships can often lead us to examine who we are and to question what is important in life. In fact, people who have experienced seriously adverse events frequently report that they were positively changed by their negative experiences.
2. Do you think that ease does not challenge us and that we need adversity to help us discover who we are? Plan and write an essay....
3. Jan. 2005: Do people depend on work – whether it is a job, schoolwork or volunteer work – to determine what their daily activities and interaction with others should be?
4. 2000: “Following a great predecessor can be inspirational, but it can also be intimidating.” Agree or disagree with this quote using examples from literature, history or personal experience.
5. “Individuals often dream of becoming as great and honorable as someone whom they admire.” Agree or disagree with this quote using examples from literature, history or personal experience.
6. “People’s lives reflect the numerous decisions that they make. Many consequences are the results of human choices.” Agree or disagree with this quote using examples from literature, history or personal experience.

Below are essay prompts from the most recent SAT administration in **March 2012**.

7. Prompt 1

Think carefully about the issue presented in the following excerpt and the assignment below.

Mistakes we have made in the past are supposed to make us wiser, stronger, and better able to deal with the future. This approach suggests that we should continue to focus on our mistakes, that we should remember them, no matter how painful or embarrassing to us they may be. But nothing is to be gained by concerning ourselves with old mistakes. We should forget them as soon as possible.

Assignment: Is it best to forget about past mistakes as soon as possible? Plan and write an essay in which you develop your point of view on this issue. Support your position with reasoning and examples taken from your reading, studies, experience, or observations.

8. Prompt 2

Think carefully about the issue presented in the following excerpt and the assignment below.

We all have "authorities"—experts and specialists, from authors to doctors to politicians—who seem to dictate our lives and determine our futures. In the best of circumstances, these authorities can make us feel safe. They make our decisions for us. They look out for our interests. Or so we hope. But not everyone we consider an authority is deserving of our trust.

Adapted from Douglas Rushkoff, *Coercion: Why We Listen to What "They" Say*

Assignment: Do people put too much trust in the guidance of experts and authorities? Plan and write an essay in which you develop your point of view on this issue. Support your position with reasoning and examples taken from your reading, studies, experience, or observations.

9. Prompt 3

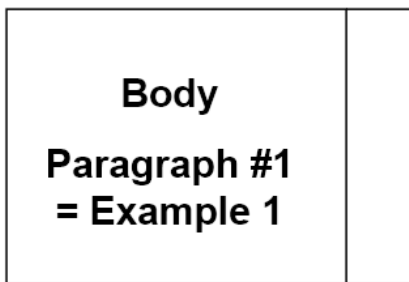
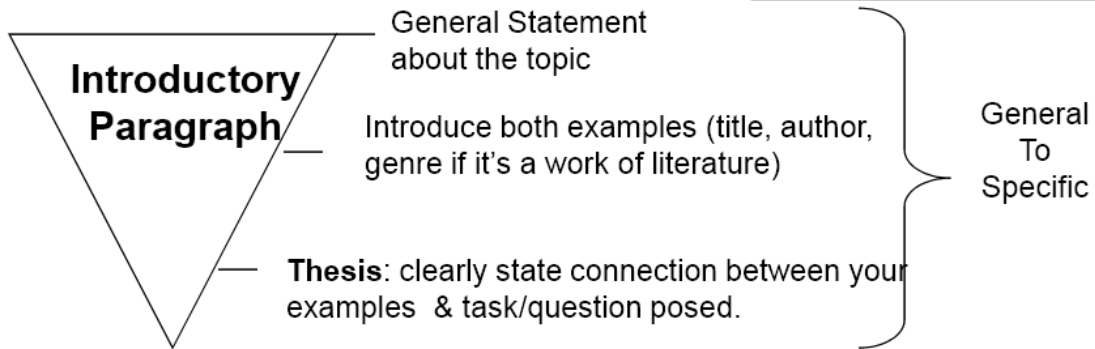
Think carefully about the issue presented in the following excerpt and the assignment below.

The word "tradition" seems innocent enough; we associate it with holiday observations and customs practiced by our ancestors. But tradition, or at least the belief in it, is a trap. At every level, from the individual to the national, tradition is simply an excuse for doing things the way they have always been done, even if that way makes no sense or causes harm to others.

Assignment: Does tradition prevent people from doing things in new or more sensible ways? Plan and write an essay in which you develop your point of view on this issue. Support your position with reasoning and examples taken from your reading, studies, experience, or observations.

SAT Essay Outline

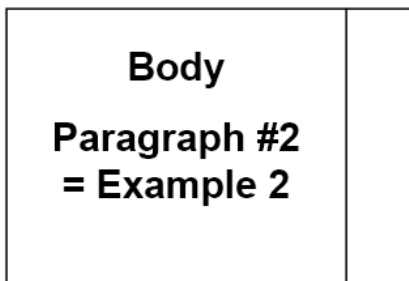
| |
|-------------------------|
| 3 minutes – plan |
| 20 minutes – write |
| 2 minutes – review/edit |



Topic Sentence: State how example #1 applies to the task/question

Using details, explain how the example supports your thesis. If you are using a work of literature, include analysis of literary elements (characterization, motivation, conflict, symbolism, foreshadowing, etc.)

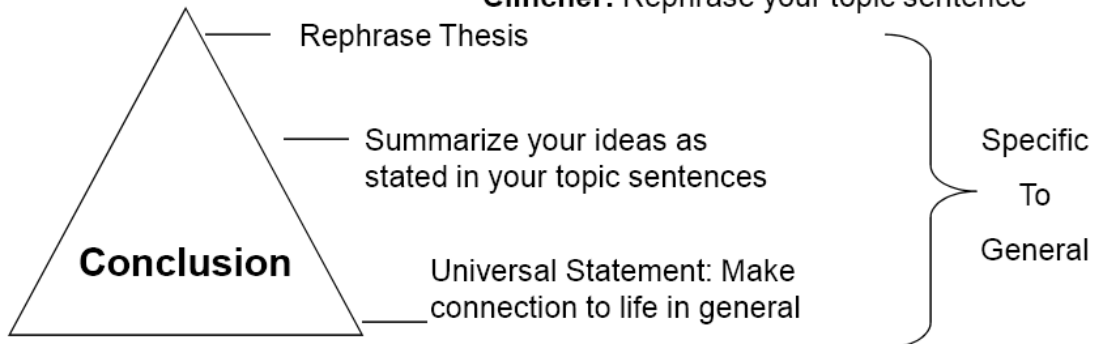
Clincher: Rephrase your topic sentence.



Topic Sentence: State how example #2 applies to the task/question

Using details, explain how the example supports your thesis. If you are using a work of literature, include analysis of literary elements (characterization, motivation, conflict, symbolism, foreshadowing, etc.)

Clincher: Rephrase your topic sentence



Prompt/Task: Do people have to be highly competitive in order to succeed?

Sample Introduction:

General Statement: It has been said that “only the fittest may survive” calling into question the role and worthiness of competition in our society. While competition may drive humans to succeed, it can also lead to poor decisions and tragedy. When people become too competitive and lose their focus, they are less likely to act fairly in an attempt to gain success regardless of what it takes. Ironically, what they usually find is failure instead. **Introduce Examples:** This is proven in William Golding’s novel, Lord of the Flies, and in the recent case of Long Island students who cheated on their SATs to get ahead. **Thesis (answer the question):** In Golding’s novel, competition proves to be deadly among the island’s boys whose society turns savage, while on Long Island, several competitive students faced serious repercussions as a result of their decision to cheat.

Topic Sentence – Body Paragraph #1:

In William Golding's novel, some of the boys become so desperate for power that their compeveness actually leads to several deaths and their failure to survive while stranded on an island. (*When wring about literature, try to include analysis of literary elements. For example: While on the island, the boys inially act civilly as symbolized by the fire and the conch...*)

Topic Sentence – Body Paragraph #2:

Recently in Long Island, the compeon to score well on SATs led several students to make the poor decision to cheat and, when they were ultimately caught, they faced disgrace, failure, and negave consequences.