

## SAT Essay Preparation

- Take a stand! Make sure your thesis is the equivalent to a yes no answer to the question
- Don't get too caught up in the prompt—it is there with the sole purpose of inspiring you, but a lot of test takers make the mistake of directing their essay to the prompt rather than the question. Read the question first. You don't even need to look at the prompt if you think it will distract or sway you.
- Ration your time! Spend about three minutes planning, twenty minutes writing, and two minutes proofreading
- Be sure to plan your essay! Quickly create a mini outline in your test booklet—some test takers make the mistake of launching into their writing without first planning it out. That's a bad idea.
- Forget the five paragraph essay— writing about two main ideas is preferable with the time restraint. It will allow you to fully develop your ideas, which is essential for the SAT essay.
- Use examples! Your essay should be based in concrete evidence in the form of examples drawn from history, politics, literature, art, current events, experience, or science
- Write clearly—the graders will only spend three minutes reading your paper and if they can't decipher your brilliant insights you won't get credit for your brilliant insights
- Don't dwell too much on your introduction and conclusion—they really only need to be a couple sentences