

Resource Manual

Expert Tips for SAT Writing & Language



WINWARD
ACADEMY



Before reviewing specific tips for the SAT Writing & Language section, let's ensure you know the rules that apply to the entire test.

Never leave an answer choice blank. There is no penalty for a wrong answer, so you should always provide an answer, even if it's a guess.

When practicing, never leave a mistake behind. You'll repeat errors if you don't identify and learn from them, so you must understand the answer to every question you ever practice. The best way to make sure you actually know a concept is to teach it to someone else.

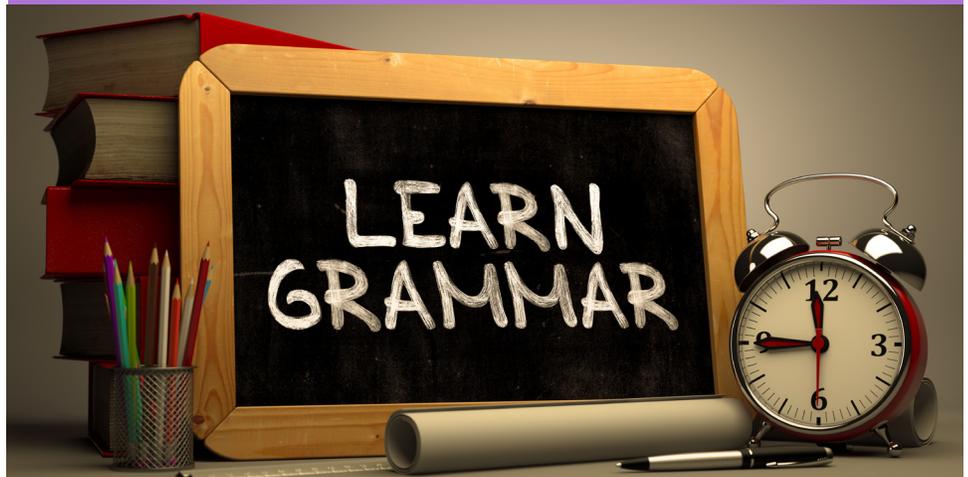
Never do a timed practice without a scantron. Yes, you have to practice bubbling. Many students make mistakes by filling in a different bubble than they intended or by skipping a line. Don't be one of them.

Doing well in the SAT Writing & Language section

Doing well requires knowledge of standard English conventions, paragraph development and flow, and word choice. One unique feature of this SAT section, compared to the English section on the ACT, is that the SAT Writing & Language section includes questions on charts and graphs.



10 Tips for the SAT Writing & Language



Questions: 44 Total



Time: 35 Minutes

(8 minutes 45 seconds per passage)

Now for the specific tips:

1. Argue well

Remember when you're revising writing, you want an argument to be clear by using relevant details and evidence. You must be able to improve the way a passage develops information on this SAT section.

2. Embrace concision

You want to pick answers that are short, sweet, and to the point, and you also want to make sure that the answers are specific enough so the reader will understand. Use as few words as possible to communicate the intended message.

3. Match the existing meaning

When you revise words in context, look for the meaning of the blank. Choose answers that preserve that intended meaning, but remember to also present this message as precisely and concisely as possible.

4. Edit clearly

Make sure you're clear when you clarify the sequence of information and when you connect a passage to the informational graphics.

5. Celebrate your inner grammarian

You have to know tons of grammar rules for this section, so plan ahead to master agreement, punctuation, parallelism, pronouns, and more.

6. Express ideas

Look to always improve organization, impact, and flow of ideas so they're connected to each other logically.

7. Practice with real tests

There are eight FREE SAT exams on Collegeboard's website. Use them to practice, and make sure you review your mistakes and learn from them before doing another timed practice.

8. Honor the tone

Consider that scientific writing would use formal, technical language versus a personal narration, which is more colloquial (conversational, informal). Look to whether the author expresses opinions to be persuasive or if he is trying to present a less biased view. These aspects of the writing will help you identify the tone.

9. Answer as you read

The side-by-side format makes it easy to answer as you go. It's the most efficient approach, but be sure to always read to their period. Don't stop reading in the middle when you're revising a sentence.

10. Love your English teacher

You are not going to be able to prepare for this test by cramming the night before. Embrace opportunities to learn throughout your academic journey: when you get a paper back from your English teacher with lots of edits, don't just look at the grade and throw away your essay - review the edits!!! Embrace repeated exposure and experience with proper writing (yes, that means text messages should say "you're nice" not "ur nice").

The ultimate goal to prepare for this section is to recognize that the use of proper grammar should be second nature, not something you're cramming to learn the night before your SAT test. The #1 thing Winward Academy students say is that they wish they started learning all the content in middle school, so that by the time they took the SAT they had mastered the grammar conventions!

So learn early and learn often!