



MHSSAT: HOW TO WRITE AN ESSAY

When it comes to writing an SAT or ACT Essay, it is important that you:

1. Read the question carefully, and immediately **take a side**. SAT questions tend to ask your opinion on a matter (*Ex. Can common sense be trusted and accepted, or should it be questioned?*). You must immediately AGREE or DISAGREE with the question. It is NOT recommend to write for both sides.
2. Outline your essay. Do not write immediately, unless you can outline it in your head.

HOW TO OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION (3-5 SENTENCES): Refrain from using pronouns such as "I, we, you" in your introduction.

Sentence 1: state a very generic statement. (It is widely assumed that in order to be the best, one must be competitive, instead of helping others to rise with them)

Sentence 2: expand on that generic statement and give a specific example.
(This can be seen in so many aspects of today's society, such as in a company, where employees often tried to work hard to be promoted and compete against each other).

Sentence 3: contradict that assumption. (However, while this seems a great technique to be successful, it is not often so, because success relies on cooperation)

Sentence 4: Better if you can expand on that assumption with a specific example, or just continue it, reword it in a refreshing new way. (Indeed, throughout history and the civilization of mankind, cooperation had contributed to a great variety of inventions....)

Sentence 5: Narrow down on the examples and generic statement to your THREE examples which you want to prove. (Specifically, in my life, I had witness three great incidents that prove the usefulness of cooperation, which are aaa, bbb, ccc)

BODY PARAGRAPH (6-8 SENTENCES) You should have around 2-3 paragraphs to elucidate your ideas. One example can be personal, while two others can be drawn from history, literature, world events. **DO NOT** use two personal examples in your essay. That looks very unprofessional.

Sentence 1: Give a topic sentence (Recently, I attended a leadership conference which took place over a three-day period within the snowy pines of Idyllwild, California.)

Sentence 2-6: Elaborate on your example.

1. How is that example relevant to the question being asked?
2. How can that example refute the opponent's idea?
3. Connect your thoughts and insights on the example.
4. Do not just state facts. State your observation on that example as well.

Sentence 7-8: Conclude your example and link to the next example.

Do the same for your next 1-2 paragraphs.

CONCLUSION (3-5 SENTENCES): Refrain from using pronouns such as "I, we, you" in your conclusion. Conclusion is merely flipping the introduction backward. Introduction went from generic to specific. Conclusion went from specific to generic.

Sentence 1: repeat your three examples (There, it is justified that through the three examples, aaa,bbb,ccc that cooperation is not only extremely helpful for the growth of friendship but also for the growth of one's progress)

Sentence 2: expand that with an assumption. (Indeed, not only these three examples prove cooperation, cooperation also found in many others aspect of life as well...)

Sentence 3: introduce a generic contradiction (While a lot of other people had refuted this by stating that the order of nature is to weed out weaker beings rather than helping them rise with you.)

Sentence 5: refute that contradiction by emphasizing how your three examples of are better than theirs.

Sentence 6: conclude with the generic statement which you use at your Sentence 1 in introduction. (Therefore, even though it is widely assumed that success must be achieved by

destroying others, this is a fallacy. We humans formed group and thrived in a pact, and those who went alone will die easily in the turbulence of the world.)

AN EXAMPLE OF AN ESSAY THAT SCORE 12/12

Topic: Is listening more important than speaking when you are trying to persuade others?
(June 6, 2015)

It has often been a misconception that speaking is more important than listening if one wants to persuade, because the image of persuasion is intricately linked to the image of a boisterous man shouting and chanting his message. Nobody can imagine persuasion in the form of silence, for to persuade, in people's mindset, is to talk excessively until the listener concurs to the speaker's idea. This is evident in the marketing and advertisement industry. Everyday consumers are exposed to noises of billboards flashing sales announcement, chants and slogans. While this is no doubt a common form of persuasion, it is not effective as listening. Listening, while on the facade seem to be a passive form on the discussion table, is actually crucial to increase influence. This can be summed up in an old adage: Knowledge speaks, but wisdom listens.

One of the first life experiences I encounter that proves the importance of listening was during a Model UN conference. In a crowded room of thirty delegations, obstinate and extroverted, nobody was listening to anybody. One of the participants tried to shout out his ideology, but it was soon drowned in disagreements and discordance. I realized that we all need to calm ourselves, listen to each other's point and carefully analyse it to see whether it is agreeable. Using this tactic, I discovered many points of view that are similar in the essence, despite such similarity is drowned in heated debate and enmity. Everybody realized this and settle down, listening attentively to his compeers. The resolution was soon passed because I was able to persuade those I have respectfully listened to, and they likewise gregariously agreed to work with me for I have allowed them to speak without intercepting. (Personal example)

A notorious historical figure who demonstrated the power of listening is William of Orange. He was nicknamed "William the Silent" for he was reticent and pensive, yet much as he did not talk, he was an effective leader because he utilized the power of listening. During discussion table he would allow other generals to input their ideas and this strengthened his influence because the generals admired his allowing them to speak freely despite their ranks. Understanding the wishes of his people through listening, William the Silent successfully united Protestant Dutch to defeat the Catholic Spaniards. (History Example)

Conclusively, it is justified to say that listening is a powerful form of persuasion, not just talking excessively. Indeed, the most memorable, most persuasive speech is given by Churchill, which only have five words. Therefore, talking in abundance will not help to promote one's cause because it creates tedium, and the message is easily lost because the speaker ignores the positions of the listeners during his speech.

For more example of essay that score 12, please go on here:

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