

ACES Learning Center Course Syllabus

SAT 100RW: SAT Foundations of Critical Reading and Writing

Course Description

ACES SAT Foundations provides a first entry-point for students interested in preparing for the new SAT test. The course covers the structure of the new test, including question types and scoring, highlighting differences between the old SAT and the new one. The course also covers general test-taking strategies and development of a personal plan-of-action for test preparation. The course also includes a crash-course in English grammar and reading skills, and fundamental writing and argumentation skills needed to write the new SAT essay.

Course Objectives and Student Competencies

- Students will learn the structure of the SAT test
- Students will learn general and SAT-specific test-taking strategies
- Students will develop a personal plan-of-action to prepare for the SAT
- Students learn specific content tested in Reading and Writing.

Class Structure

The SAT Foundations course is a lecture-based class designed to help students learn as much material in as short a time as possible. Thus, the course consists of an accelerated lecture-based overview of the four subjects. There is, however, time allotted to take SAT test sections, analyze errors, and develop personal strategies for success.

Class Assignments

Students will take SAT sections each week for homework and also complete skill-building exercises for each section of the test.

Course Schedule:

Date	Subject	Topics	Strategies	Homework
Week 1	Test Overview Writing	Grammar: Verb tense, irregular past participles, Gerunds and Infinitives, Pronoun case and agreement, Idioms and preposition/verb pairs	Process of elimination, Pacing, Using Context, Using Your Ear	Grammar Test #1; Grammar Assignment
Week 2	Writing	Grammar: Punctuation and possession, Run-on's and Fragments, FANBOYS, Misplaced modifiers and ambiguous reference, Countable and Uncountable	Previewing, Key words and lead words, Identifying question type- Grammar vs. Rhetoric	Grammar Test #2; Error-Correction Assignment
Week 3	Reading	Main idea, topic sentences, transitions, sequence, structure, and flow; Identifying purpose, eliminating redundancy Complete, clear, consistent, concise writing	Question Types: Main Idea, Inference, Detail, Vocab-in-Context, and Function	Reading Test #1; Vocab-in-Context Assignment
Week 4	Reading	Implied cause and effect, inference, identifying meaning of context-dependent words, synthesizing information and generalizing	Recognizing incorrect answers: Distortion, Misused detail, Out-of-scope (Extraneous), Unsupported Absolute, and Contrafactual.	Reading Test #2; Essay Assignment
Week 5	Essay	Analyzing an Argument Structuring an Essay (5-Paragraph)	Understanding Point-of-View	Course Evaluation