

SAT Essay

Three forms of persuasion:

Ethics (Ethos): Intended to establish a person's professional credibility or qualifications to make a particular argument.

Trusted sources bolster their argument.

Emotion (Pathos): Intended to evoke an emotional response in audience such as fear, anger, nostalgia, sentimentality.

Logic (Logos): Speak directly to audience's sense of reason or logic.

Diction: Word choice that the author uses.

Formal diction: no contractions, elevated speech
part of author's ethos to establish credibility and knowledge on the subject discussed.

Casual diction: connects with the audience
show that they have a human side

Sentence Structure:

- Parallel structures are broken to call the reader's attention to the most important part of the sentence.
- Starting many sentences with same word to provide rhythm to speaker's words and emphasize the urgency of speaker's call to action.
- Short simple sentences create rhetorical effects and draw the reader's attention to something urgent and immediate.
- Long complex sentences are used when writer want to make speech sound beautiful and moving.
- Tone or attitude of the writer may be spirited, argumentative, subtle, removed, conversational, funny, sarcastic, personal, emotional.
- Anecdotes make a more compelling point. They often use pathos since people are able to emphasize with a story that has a face attached to it.

Ubiquitous - present everywhere at once. Mutable, congruous - incongruous
Didactic, sardonic, delegate, parable, acuity, subjective - objective, decrij
hypocrisy, dichotomy, prejudice

Barron's writing workbook: 6, 7, 11, 12, 14, 18, 19, 26, 27, 28, 38

Barron's New SAT: 256, 263, 272, 280-281, 283, 289

- Comma is used to join two complete sentences where there is a FANBOYS transitional word.
- Do not use comma when everything is needed to make the sentence clear and logical.
- Use colon after a complete sentence to set off a clarification
- [Caitlin's and Hannah's individual resumes...] apostrophe needed to establish individual ownership. ~~of~~

- Elicit (obtain) vs. Illicit (illegal)
- Allude (indirect reference) vs. Elude (escape from)
- Which (extra information) vs. that (essential information)

✓ Every dress was the same.

✗ My sister is better than everybody at solving differential equations

✓ If he were working, he would be much more satisfied (subjunctive mood is used when the fact is contrary to what is happening)

✓ Each person needs to perform his best...

Evidence must have sufficiency, believability and accuracy

Expressions

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- sarcastic, yet not sardonic.
- rhetorical triumph
- the author strongly decries
- ... is a surprising word to run across in a discussion of ... Perhaps the writer chose the word for this reason. It is unusual in the context, and ~~bursting~~ bursting with connotations of succulence and dripping in meaning. It is also slightly suggestive, stimulating and tantalizing, and ~~ing ignited~~ ignited the reader's imagination.
- Even if not every reader would be swayed by sentimentality, all are likely to recognize writer's ~~sentimentality~~ ^{concern} and agree that ...
- The cumulative effect of the ... creates a compelling argument that ...
- The reader cannot find 'literal' proof in the answer to the question. Rather, the writer provides a series of observations that add up to the claim...
- Even without statistics or other reasons, the writer builds a persuasive argument to support the main claim by using sub-claims presented in a easy-to-follow format.
- Finding the issue more gray than black and white, the writer favors a balanced approach, recognizing that opposing claims each have merit. By acknowledging that his thinking is still in flux, they encourage readers, too, to keep an open ~~to~~ mind on a particular issue. By stating the two sides of the controversy, the writer prepares the reader to look at both the pros and cons of ...
- Such a paragraph achieves a high degree of persuasiveness by the very absence of a claim. When readers have weighed all the evidence and then drawn their own conclusions rather than having it handed to them, they are more likely to cling more firmly to their beliefs.

- A person is regarded as a hero NOT to be a hero
- prefers .. to .. NOT prefers .. over , prefers .. more than
- ... only one of its kind NOT ... only one of a kind
- ... draw upon resources NOT ... draw from resources
- ideas are different from NOT opposite to, different than
- ... are particular about NOT ... particular in
- ... thought it wise to ... NOT ... thought it as wise to ...
- ... issue with regards to your ... NOT ... issue in regards to your ...

Logic: ... the reader remarks the thinking process that led to this argument,
Engaging with the topic at a deeper level

Facts and Statistics:

They are persuasive argument building techniques because the author is not just ~~contemplating~~ ^{speculating} why his arguments could possibly be true, but he is presenting data that backs up his claim. ... By presenting information and facts, rather than just opinion and spin, the author empowers the reader to connect the dots for her own, which in turn gives the reader ~~own~~ ownership over the argument and makes it more persuasive as the reader is coming to his own conclusion.

Anecdotes:

Even though anecdotes are not statistics or facts, they are powerful because people more faith in experiences if they could personally connect with them.

Counterarguments

They strengthen the main argument as by giving space to another point of view, the author makes it seem that the discussion will be more fair. The review of the counterclaim, as present in XYZ's article, shows a deeper understanding of the topic than if the article only presented a one-sided argument.

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