

Writing the SAT Essay

Do	Don't
Take a stand on the issue	Write about both sides of the issue
Take 5 minutes to brainstorm and organize your **5 paragraph essay in the margin of the test booklet	Write one long paragraph
Write neatly / Line out mistakes	Erase
APPROPRIATELY quote or cite history, literature, or science	Include a quotation without connecting it to the topic just to “sound smart”
Restate or specifically refer to the prompt in each paragraph	Write off topic or with vague generalizations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use interesting vocabulary • Vary sentence length • Develop 3 supporting points with specific examples 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use inappropriate slang • Use second person, “you...” • Repeat • Use more or less than 3 ideas, examples, points

****Though difficult, it is possible to score a 6 on an essay of less or more than 5 paragraphs.**