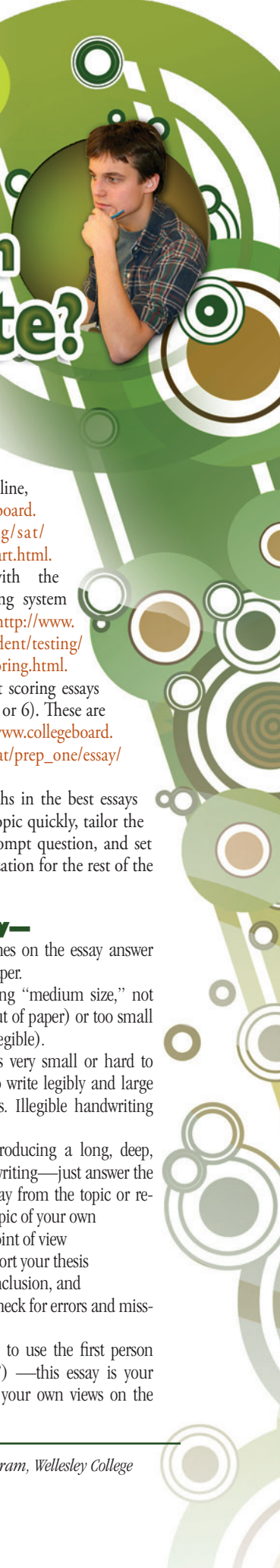


Preparing for the SAT I Writing Section What Will I Write?



The **SAT I Writing Section**, which always begins the SAT Reasoning Test, measures your ability to

- understand and identify errors in grammar and sentence structure
- recognize principles of paragraph organization—unity, coherence and emphasis—in a multiple choice format

The **Essay Section** of the **SAT I Writing test** asks you to write a short essay in which you

- **focus on a topic** in response to the exam’s prompt
- develop and express a **clear point of view** about your topic
- **use reasoning** to analyze and support your position on the topic
- draw on your reading and life experiences to **give evidence** that supports your viewpoint
- do all of this in **standard written English**

You will be given a short prose passage and a specific question. You’ll have **25 minutes** to produce a finished essay, with

- **an introduction/thesis**
- **supporting paragraphs**
- **transitions**
- **a conclusion**
- **a clear, fluent, grammatically correct prose style with standard spelling and punctuation**
- **a unified theme and supporting examples that respond to the question the test poses**

The Essay is scored by veteran college and high school teachers, who read each student’s work and assign it a rating from 1 to 6. An off-topic essay will receive a score of zero.

How to Get Ready

- Read over the Writing section of the SAT online Preparation Center, at http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/prep_one/prep_one.html.
- Look at sample essays in the College Board’s

print version of The Official

SAT Study Guide or read sample essays online, at http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/prep_one/essay/pracStart.html.

- Become familiar with the College Boards’ scoring system for essays, at http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/prep_one/essay_scoring.html.
- Check out the highest scoring essays (essays that receive a 5 or 6). These are available at http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/prep_one/essay/pracStart.html.
- The opening paragraphs in the best essays focus on the writer’s topic quickly, tailor the essay to the exam’s prompt question, and set up a pattern of organization for the rest of the essay.

And on test day—

- **Write** only on the lines on the essay answer sheet—use no other paper.
- **Keep** your handwriting “medium size,” not too large (you’ll run out of paper) or too small (your writing will be illegible).
- **If** your handwriting is very small or hard to read, take extra care to write legibly and large enough for the readers. Illegible handwriting will lower your score!
- **Don’t** worry about producing a long, deep, philosophical piece of writing—just answer the question, and don’t stray from the topic or respond by inventing a topic of your own
- **get** across a definite point of view
- **give** examples to support your thesis
- **wrap** it all up in a conclusion, and
- **re-read** your work to check for errors and missing words
- **Remember**, it’s fine to use the first person singular pronoun (“I”)—this essay is your opportunity to present your own views on the topic.