

Official SAT Practice

Lesson Plans

for Teachers by Teachers

LESSON 18

Writing and Language— Putting It All Together

Subscore: Expression of Ideas; Standard English Conventions;
Command of Evidence; Words in Context

Focus: Completing two Writing and Language sets

Teacher Notes

Throughout these lessons to prepare students for the Writing and Language Test, students have been practicing the individual skills somewhat separately and in isolation. On the actual SAT®, however, students will have to apply multiple skills to a single passage. This lesson will give students an opportunity to work through two passages, demonstrate a variety of skills by answering sample SAT questions, and reflect on their strengths and weaknesses.

Objective:

Students will practice and reflect on all of aspects of the Writing and Language Test.

Before the Lesson:

- Preview the Writing and Language Test overview video, if you haven't already.
- Preview and print (if necessary) the student materials.

Opening Activity | 5 minutes

1. Remind students about the key skills the SAT Writing and Language Test asks students to demonstrate. Direct students to look at the overviews in the student materials for this lesson, and they may want to view this 2-minute overview of the Writing and Language Test from Khan Academy® (it was also suggested in Lesson 5).

<https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/sat/new-sat-tips-planning/about-the-sat-writing-language-test/v/sat-writing-and-language-test-what-to-expect>

Individual Practice | 25 minutes

1. For the Writing and Language Test, students will have 35 minutes to answer 44 questions. In the practice opportunity for this lesson, students will have 25 minutes to answer 22 questions, which is just about the recommended average of time to spend on each question.
2. Direct students to read the passages they have practiced, annotating for diction, syntax, and with an awareness of conventions, and to answer as many of the questions (23–44) that follow in the time allowed.

Group/Pair Activity | 20 minutes

1. After time has been called, ask students to work with a partner to examine the correct answers and the rationales for each of the 22 questions.
2. Individually, they should identify what types of questions are easier or more challenging for them and plan additional practice accordingly.

Homework | 20 minutes

- Continue practicing Writing on Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy. Ask students to make note of their levels in each of the three writing types and how they have improved.

Student Materials—Lesson 18

Introductory Activity

The Writing and Language Test in Overview

Some of the basic elements of the Writing and Language Test are listed below. Familiarizing yourself with this overview may help you prepare for the test and pace yourself on test day.

- Total Questions: 44
- Total Time: 35 minutes (on average, slightly under a minute per question, inclusive of passage reading time)
- Number of Passages: Four
- Passage Length: 400 to 450 words; total of 1,700 words
- Passage Subjects: One passage on a career-related topic and one passage each in the humanities, history/social studies, and science
- Passage Writing Modes: One nonfiction narrative, one to two informative/explanatory texts, and one to two arguments
- Passage Complexities: A defined range from grades 9–10 to early postsecondary
- Questions per Passage: 11
- In addition to an overall test score, the questions on the Writing and Language Test contribute to various scores in the following ways:
 - Expression of Ideas: 24 questions, generally six per passage
 - Standard English Conventions: 20 questions, generally five per passage
 - Command of Evidence: Eight questions, generally two per passage
 - Words in Context: Eight questions, generally two per passage
 - Analysis in History/Social Studies: Six questions (all of the Expression of Ideas questions on the history/social studies passage)
 - Analysis in Science: Six questions (all of the Expression of Ideas questions on the science passage)

The two main categories of skills on the Writing and Language Test are:

1. **Expression of Ideas:** These questions focus on the rhetorical elements of passages. To put it another way, Expression of Ideas questions deal with improving the substance and quality of the writer’s message. You’ll be asked to revise passages to improve the
 - a. development of the topic;
 - b. the organization of information and ideas; and
 - c. the effectiveness of the language use.
2. **Standard English Conventions:** These questions focus on correcting grammar, usage, and mechanics problems in passages. More specifically, these questions ask you to recognize and correct errors in sentence structure (such as run-on or incomplete sentences), usage (such as lack of subject–verb or pronoun–antecedent agreement), and punctuation (such as missing or unnecessary commas).

Individual Practice

Here is the link for the pages for texts and questions:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0BynYpdxlQ5fMbUcyZGtPLVVIaUU>

Here is the link to the pages of explanations for the questions above:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0BynYpdxlQ5fMa0pOaWFXZEV2S0k>