

College Prep PRESENTATION



Who am I ? Miesha Williamson



- ◉ SAT/ACT College Prep Tutor for over 12 years
- ◉ Mechanical Engineering Background
- ◉ STEM Education Advocate
- ◉ Technology Consultant at a Software Company

Top 3 Hacks to ACE the SAT



What you need to know about the exam



#1: Know why you got each question wrong

1. **Content knowledge** - You did not know the subject
2. **Timing**- You needed more time to answer the questions
3. **Careless Error**- You went too fast and did not thoroughly read the answer

Knowing if content or timing problem

1. Take a section of the test and time yourself
2. Keep going when time is up and put a T in a circle next to each question you complete after the timer is up
3. Put a question mark for each question you were iffy about
4. Grade the exam based on what you completed before time is up and after time is up
5. If your score after time is up is higher you need to keep taking tests and improve your time
6. If it didn't change the score much, you need to work on increasing content knowledge

● **How to improve your time**

1. Find ten minute SAT drills and do as many as you can (<http://www.cracksat.net>)
2. Do as many SAT practice tests as you can a week and time yourself
3. Use the POE method and Plug- in method instead of solving



To improve your content knowledge

1. Understand your subscores

- ⦿ Know which areas you need to improve
- ⦿ Most people do not have a mastery of Algebra 1 and can not effectively answer questions from ANY of the subjects without this knowledge
- ⦿ Memorize multiplication tables up to 15 (use flashcards)



#2: Practice and Repeat

“Repetition is the mother of learning, the father of action, which makes it the architect of accomplishment.” (Zig Ziglar)

Repetition helps you master a skill.



How to use repetition to help improve your scores

Take as many practice exams as possible and subject drills as possible



#3. Improve your Vocabulary

- ⦿ One of the MOST important things to master the SAT
- ⦿ Get a vocabulary workbook that has you practice ten words a week
- ⦿ Search “SAT words” on quizlet and learn 5 to 10 a week



Top 3 SAT Reading Tips and Tricks

What you need to know about the exam



Resources for Reading and English

- ◉ Read the Wall Street Journal, Black Enterprise, or New Yorker
- ◉ [Blog.prepscholar.com](http://blog.prepscholar.com)
- ◉ Quizlet and search SAT Words

Writing resources:

- ◉ Purdue Owl Lab
- ◉ Grammarly



#1. Read above your level

Read article from publications like the Wall Street Journal or Forbes.

Have your parents read the same articles so you can discuss. This helps with reading comprehension and forming higher order thinking.

Go ahead and read Harry Potter and the Vampire Diaries



#2. Form a database of new words

As you read these books and publications, keep a list of the words you don't know the definition of

Review a few daily



#3 Improve your grammar

Read a book or blogs on grammar.

Check out the SAT grammar rules and become familiar with those. For example proper use of a semi-colon.



SAT Grammar

Rules and Regulations



RUN-ONS & FRAGMENTS

A complete sentence contains a subject, a predicate verb, and a complete thought. If any of the three is lacking, the sentence is called a fragment. A run-on contains too much information, usually because two independent clauses (two complete thoughts) are being improperly combined.



VERBS: SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT & VERB TENSES

The SAT English section often includes long sentences in which the main subject and the verb are separated by lots of words or clauses. If you identify the subject of each sentence and make sure the verb matches it, you can ace this grammar rule. In addition, the SAT tests your knowledge of past, present, future, past perfect, present perfect, and future perfect tenses.



PUNCTUATION

Commas, apostrophes, colons, semicolons, dashes, periods, question marks, and exclamation points are all tested on the ACT.



IDIOMS

Idioms are expressions native to the English language. There are two part idioms such as “neither...nor” and “not only...but also” as well as prepositional idioms like “opposed TO” and “participate IN.”



WORDINESS

As long as there are no new grammar errors introduced, the shortest answer choice is often correct. Redundancy is a type of wordiness where the same thing is said twice such as “happy and joyful.” Keep it simple, to the point, and don’t repeat yourself..”



The steps for getting a perfect SAT Score

1. Learn basic grammar rules

Use a book like to learn basic grammar rules. It is really helpful to get a workbook with drills that reinforce each grammar rule.

2. Take as many Reading practice exams as possible
Practice makes perfect.

3. Read the explanations for each answer choice of the problems you get wrong



Read Carefully

every single Reading passage question has only one, single correct answer.

But the SAT disguises this fact. It asks questions like:

1. The author would *most likely* agree with which of the following statements?
2. The first paragraph *primarily* serves to:
3. In line 20, 'dark' *most nearly* means:

Notice a pattern here? **The SAT always disguises the fact that there's always one unambiguous answer.** It tries to MAKE you waver between two or three answer choices that are most likely.

And then you guess randomly.

And then you get it wrong.



SAT Reading Strategies

Strategy 1: Understand Your High Level Weakness — Time Management or Passage Strategy?- What we said at beginning of class

Strategy 2: Learn to Eliminate 3 Wrong Answers- (The SAT will always put the opposite question. Beware of that)

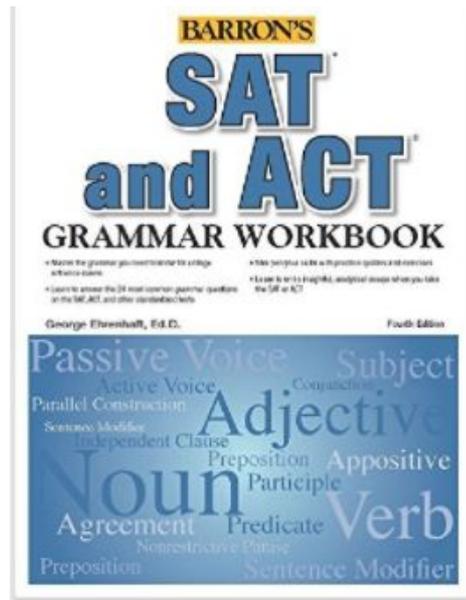
Strategy 3: Experiment With Passage Reading Strategies and Find the Best for You- Read passage first then answer questions. Read questions first then read passage and answer as you go

Strategy 4: Predict the Answer Before Reading the Answer Choices



The steps for getting a perfect ACT English Score

1. Learn basic grammar rules
Use a book like to learn basic grammar rules. It is really helpful to get a workbook with drills that reinforce each grammar rule.



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ISBN-10: 1438008732

[Why is ISBN important?](#) ▾



Note taking for success

How to study content for the SAT



In high school

- Use your textbooks
- Do the exercises in your textbooks
- Write down the words you don't know in a list and then find the definitions
- Do end of chapter review and tests in books
- Have teacher grade them for you

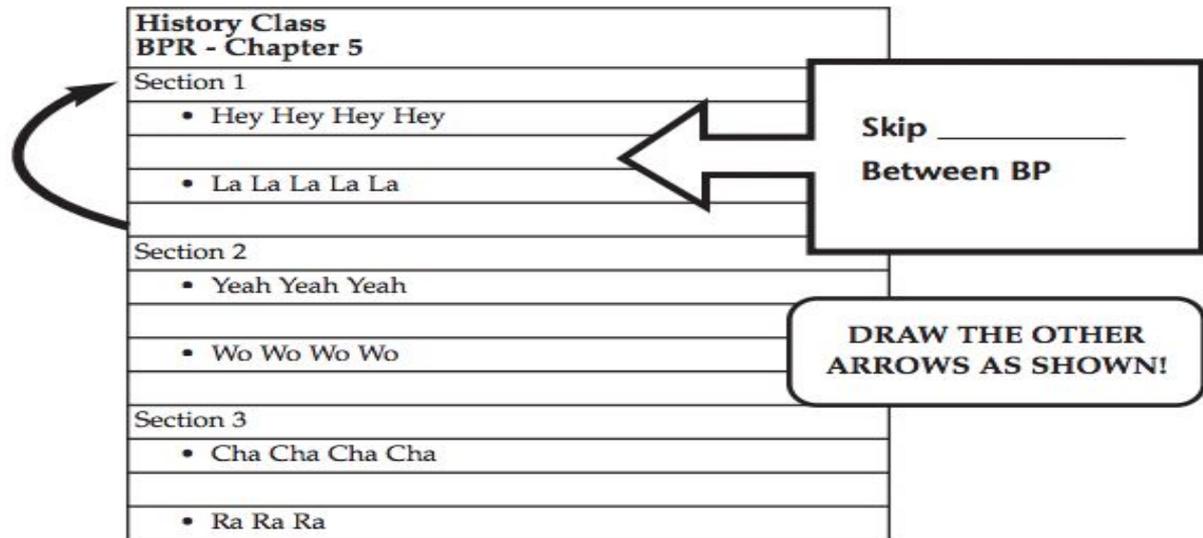


What you need to know

- ⦿ Go to class
- ⦿ Start homework early
- ⦿ Take notes efficiently
- ⦿ Focus while studying
- ⦿ Don't procrastinate

Bullet Point _____ (BPR)

- At least _____ before going to Class
 1. Continue _____(Section by Section)
 2. _____
 - Each time you see an important thought, concept, or definition
 3. Summarize, _____
 - On a separate sheet of lined paper



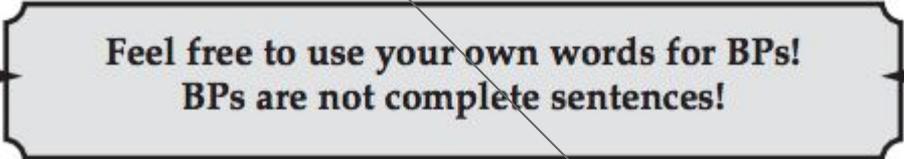
- **Shirley Ann Jackson**

- 1973, PhD physics / MIT

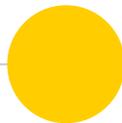
- 1st black woman

- 1995, Chair, Nuclear Regulatory Commission

- Now, President @ RPI



**Feel free to use your own words for BPs!
BPs are not complete sentences!**





BPR for Math

BP for Math/Science Formulas

1. Write down the equation
2. BP _____
 - List each symbol, meaning (common units)
3. Do _____
 - Ask yourself:
 - What conditions must be met?
 - What must be true?
 - What are the limitations?
 - _____ = summarizing BP(s)





BPR for Math

BPR Example - Math

$$A = \frac{1}{2} * b * h$$

- A =
- b =
- h =

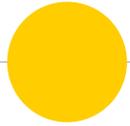


BPR Example – Science

$$P_1 V_1 = P_2 V_2$$

- P_1 = Initial Pressure (mmHG)
- V_1 = Initial Volume (ml)
- P_2 = Final Pressure (mmHG)
- V_2 = Final Volume (ml)





Managing Time Wisely

Tips and Tools



Time Management

- Use an academic planner
- Use a wall calendar
- Spend three hours a day at least dedicated to school work
- Don't eat heavy carbs, junk, or sugar before studying
- Go hard in gym class helps with energy



Finding Scholarships

How to find scholarships and aid to go to college for free



Miesha's Story

- I was serious about planning and applying for scholarships and making myself college ready
- Because of my efforts I scored 31/36 on the ACT and 1420/1600 on the SAT



What this got me

- \$5000 in random small scholarships to cover books and expenses Freshman year
- A full-ride + room and board + \$1,000 a month stipend to University of Maryland , Hampton, and Spelman College, Clark Atlanta



What this got me

- ⦿ A full-ride + room and board to FAM-U, North Carolina A&T, Depaul University Chicago
- ⦿ Full tuition (no room and board or stipend) University of Michigan and Emory University

● Where did I go?





The reasons I made this choice were stupid

- ◉ My guidance counselor told me I couldn't get in and I couldn't do engineering in high school
- ◉ It was the most prestigious engineering school I applied to



The reasons I made this choice were stupid

- ◉ My scores and grades were too high to get into any pre-college residential and help programs that PWI provide for minority students
- ◉ My parents made “too much” for me to get too much extra financial aid so I had a lot of loans to pay for expenses

 **I saved \$125,000 on out of state tuition**

But.....

I have \$50,000 in debt

Don't be like 17 year old Miesha

 **I saved \$125,000 on out of state tuition**

But.....

I have \$50,000 in debt

Don't be like 17 year old Miesha



Go somewhere that is financially easy

I have friends who turned down full-rides at UofM and went to state because they heard UofM was “racist” on TV. Then they found out State is a similar student environment as UofM pertaining to racism.

Don't go to a school because you think it is racist.
Media's job is to make things worse than they seem.



I am a HUGE supporter of HBCU's ...

I have friends who turned down full-rides at PWI's because they wanted to go to an HBCU now they are close to six-figures in debt when they could have had none.

- ◉ Join BSU
 - ◉ Find the minority support office
- ◉ Meet all your professors (They see you in a class of 400, might as well get to know them)



DO go to and HBCU for Engineering

Facebook, Microsoft, Boeing and all the major engineering companies are investing hege dollars to HBCU's to invest in black engineers. Often can go to school for FREE

- ◉ FAM-U
- ◉ North-Carolina A&T
- ◉ Spelman and Morehouse
 - ◉ Howard



Recent Student Success Stories

Christian from Atlanta- 31 ACT- Full Ride to Columbia University for Mechanical Engineering Saving him \$60,000 a year (\$240, 000 total savings)

Susan from Oak Park, IL- 35 ACT Full Tuition to Wesleyan University \$52,174 a year



Good time to be a Michigan resident

Detroit Promise

www.detroitchamber.com/

In partnership with the city's Detroit Promise Zone, the Detroit Promise, administered by the Detroit Regional Chamber, ensures that any Detroit-resident student graduating in the spring of 2018 from a high school in the city of Detroit will have a tuition-free path to an associate degree, technical certificate**, or bachelors degree at any one of six participating community colleges or 17 four-year universities.

Wayne State introduces Heart of Detroit Tuition Pledge, offering free tuition for Detroit students, residents

SHARE



Wayne State University today announced the establishment of the Heart of Detroit Tuition Pledge, which will provide free tuition for graduates of a Detroit high school or Detroit residents earning a high school diploma, and admitted to Wayne State University as a full-time freshman in fall 2020.

The Heart of Detroit Tuition Pledge could potentially provide free tuition to the 49,276 students currently enrolled in Detroit Public





GO BLUE GUARANTEE

LEARN HOW AFFORDABLE
A WORLD-CLASS UNIVERSITY CAN BE

Are you a Michigan resident concerned
about paying for college?

We have some good news for you. At the University of Michigan, **attendance costs less than it did 10 years ago** for many in-state undergraduate students.

The **Go Blue Guarantee** is our commitment to keeping a world-class education affordable and accessible for all Michigan residents pursuing undergraduate study on our Ann Arbor campus. It includes:

FREE TUITION FOR FAMILIES WITH INCOMES \$65,000 & UNDER ASSETS BELOW \$50,000	TUITION SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES WITH INCOMES UP TO \$180,000
FOUR YEARS FOR QUALIFYING IN-STATE STUDENTS ANN ARBOR CAMPUS	

HOW DOES IT WORK?

You do not have to apply specifically for the Go Blue Guarantee. The Go Blue Guarantee is automatically awarded to qualified Michigan residents who:

- 1)** apply to U-M,
- 2)** get admitted, and
- 3)** apply for financial aid by March 31.



Schools that offer Full Coverage under \$150,000

- ⦿ Harvard
- ⦿ Rice
- ⦿ Princeton
- ⦿ Yale
- ⦿ Duke
- ⦿ Columbia
- ⦿ Stanford
- ⦿ MIT



Start Preparing to be Scholarship Ready as a Freshman

1. Start studying for the SAT
2. Get straight A's by asking each teacher what it takes to get an A
3. If Geometry Honors is hard take regular Geometry
4. Join at least one sport and one academic activity and give your all

Start applying for scholarships as a sophomore in high school-

www.scholarships.com

High School Sophomore (H.S. Class of 2022) Scholarships

Scholarship Title	Amount	Due Date
\$1,000 School Survey Sweepstakes	\$1,000	Varies
\$3,000 Scholarship - Tennessee Star Constitution Bee	\$3,000	Varies
(ISC)² Women in Information Security Scholarship	\$8,000	02/17/2020
1,000 Dreams Scholarship	\$1,000	Varies
2019 John Sexton Essay Contest	\$1,100	04/25/2020
A Voice for Animals Contest	\$500	04/30/2020
ABPA Harrington-Arthur Memorial Scholarship Essay Competition	\$1,500	01/31/2020
AEC Aluminum Extrusion Design Competition	\$5,000	03/30/2020

First Fill Out FASFA

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/about>

There are a lot of scam websites to get your info.

Federal Student Aid
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

PROUD SPONSOR of
the AMERICAN MIND®

Prepare for College

Types of Aid

Who Gets Aid

FAFSA®: App



A list of places to search for scholarships

[Fastweb.com](https://www.fastweb.com)

[Collegeboard.org](https://collegeboard.org)

[Niche.com](https://niche.com)

[Scholarships.com](https://www.scholarships.com)

www.petersons.com

Financial Aid Sections of the Schools you want to attend



All about Essays

College admissions and SAT Prep Essays



Become a good writer now

- ⦿ Read
- ⦿ Practice Writing at least weekly in a journal
- ⦿ Become a master storyteller
- ⦿ Watch speeches (read transcripts) from people you admire
- ⦿ Improve Grammar and Vocabulary



Scholarship Example Questions

Personal Achievements Samples:

Describe how you have demonstrated leadership ability both in and out of school.

Discuss a special attribute or accomplishment that sets you apart.



Scholarship Example Questions

Personal Achievements Samples:

Describe how you have demonstrated leadership ability both in and out of school.

Discuss a special attribute or accomplishment that sets you apart.



Scholarship Example Questions

Background Examples Samples:

Pick an experience from your own life and explain how it has influenced your development.

Who in your life has been your biggest influence and why?



How to write a scholarship Essay



The Writing Process

- Step One: Analyzing the Question & Audience
- Step Two: Gathering and Brainstorming
- Step Three: Shaping by Writing an Outline
- Step Four: Writing Your Rough Draft
- Step Five: Revising the Content
- Step Six: Editing Grammatical and Mechanical Errors



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Carefully Analyze the Directions

- If you are to write following a specific set of directions, then carefully read the directions several times.
 - Are there different parts to the directions?
 - Are you asked to provide different types of information about yourself?
- Divide the question into its parts and make an exhaustive list or cluster that answers each part of the question.



Research



Audience

- Research the organization giving the scholarship for which you are applying. Who is offering the scholarship? Who are the judges? For what is the organization known? What is the organization's mission?



Research



The Introduction

- **Introduction** : Many personal statements begin with a catchy opening, often a distinctive personal example, as a way of gaining the reader's attention. From there you can connect the example to the actual scholarship for which you are applying. Mention the specific name of the scholarship, as well as the degree you are seeking, in the first paragraph.



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Body Paragraphs

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide, consisting of two overlapping semi-circles. The front one is a darker teal, and the back one is a lighter teal.

Body Paragraphs

Detailed Supporting Paragraphs:

- Subsequent paragraphs should address any specific questions from the application, which might deal with your own qualifications or your long-term goals or some combination.
- Each paragraph should be focused and should have a topic sentence that informs the reader of the paragraph's emphasis.
- The examples from your experience must be relevant and should support your argument about your qualifications.



Body Paragraphs

A teal semi-circular graphic element is positioned to the left of the sub-header.

The Conclusion

Conclusion: Tie together the various issues that you have raised in the essay, and reiterate your interest in receiving the scholarship. You might also mention how receiving this scholarship will be a step towards a long-term goal in a closing paragraph.



Let's Draft an Essay

What contribution do you want to make to the world and why?



SURVEY

www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZQP97B8

mieshajw@gmail.com - Email me with questions