

美国名校入学考试指导系列

2016

NEW SAT ESSAY

A WRITER'S HANDBOOK

新

SAT 作文

分析与写作技巧

张喆森◎编著



清华大学出版社

美国名校入学考试指导系列

新SAT 作文：分析与写作技巧

New SAT Essay: A Writer's Handbook

张喆森 编著

清华大学出版社

北 京

本书封面贴有清华大学出版社防伪标签，无标签者不得销售。

版权所有，侵权必究。侵权举报电话：010-62782989 13701121933

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

新 SAT 作文：分析与写作技巧/张喆森 编著. —北京：清华大学出版社，2016

(美国名校入学考试指导系列)

ISBN 978-7-302-43484-9

I. ①新… II. ①张… III. ①英语—写作—高等学校—入学考试—美国—自学参考资料
IV. ①H315

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2016)第 078291 号

责任编辑：陈 莉 高 岫

封面设计：周晓亮

版式设计：思创景点

责任校对：曹 阳

责任印制：杨 艳

出版发行：清华大学出版社

网 址：<http://www.tup.com.cn>, <http://www.wqbook.com>

地 址：北京清华大学学研大厦A座

邮 编：100084

社 总 机：010-62770175

邮 购：010-62786544

投稿与读者服务：010-62776969, c-service@tup.tsinghua.edu.cn

质 量 反 馈：010-62772015, zhiliang@tup.tsinghua.edu.cn

印 装 者：清华大学印刷厂

经 销：全国新华书店

开 本：185mm×260mm

印 张：9.5 字 数：149千字

版 次：2016年5月第1版

印 次：2016年5月第1次印刷

印 数：1~3000

定 价：29.00元

产品编号：066131-01

美国名校入学考试指导系列

编委会

主 任：魏 健

主 编：任爱军

编 委：（按姓氏笔划为序）

王志强 刘 莉 刘 雯 刘星洋 朱子怡

张喆森 郑宇凡 胡 肸 徐爱喆 葛建光

丛书序

SAT 是 1901 年以来美国普遍使用的大学入学考试，也是国际学生申请美国本科必须参加的考试之一。每年有将近 160 万学生参加 SAT 考试，世界各地的高校录取委员会也将 SAT 作为考察学生学习能力的首要因素。2016 年 2 月 SAT 将迎来一次全新的改革，新的 SAT 考试在考察学生对知识点的掌握的基础上，侧重考察考生们对所学知识的应用和对大学课程的适应能力。

考生要在 SAT 考试中取得高分并不容易，对已经适应了旧 SAT 考试的学生来说尤其如此，全新的考试模式势必会对广大考生的成绩带来不小的冲击。因此，为了使同学们能够尽快地了解改革带来的变化，适应新版 SAT，我们特意编写了美国名校入学考试指导系列。

在编写过程中，常春藤 100 教育的资深顾问团队将其多年丰富的入学申请成就和咨询经验进行了总结，并收集了大量美国历史、文化、新闻及教育方面的素材，以求我们的这套丛书更贴近真题，更有指导性、针对性和时代性。

这套丛书包括：

新 SAT 全真模拟试题集

新 SAT: Evidence-Based Reading

新 SAT: Writing and Language

新 SAT 词汇及练习

新 SAT 数学解析

新 SAT 数学练习集

新 SAT 作文指导

美国顶尖名校申请成功案例解析（本科）

美国名校申请成功范文集（本科）

美国名校面面观

其内容包揽了常春藤 100 教育近十年来对美国著名大学录取标准的分析，东西方教育体制的比较，以及指导考生成功进入美国名校的经验和个案。在英语和数学方面，这套书从词汇、语法、阅读、写作，到几何、代数、统计、概率，以及基础数论的计算和分析都做了详尽的解释和深刻的剖析，并给予学习方法上的指导和考试技巧上的提示。此外，该丛书还有大量由常春藤 100 教育 SAT 专家撰

写的相关练习和仿真限时考题。

在使用这套丛书的过程中，考生对 SAT 会从知之甚少到驾轻就熟，从茫然不知所措到坦然从容应对。这个过程帮助他们丰富科学知识，接触美国文化，提高英语技能，熟悉考试模式，充分认识自我，增强应试能力。

从准备参加 SAT 考试，到如愿以偿进入理想的美国大学，是一个短至数月长至几年的过程。这个过程犹如在崎岖不平的小道上攀登，是对毅力的磨练和恒心的考验。对正处于个性形成期的中学生而言，这个过程对他们将来人生的轨迹和成功有着重要的作用。SAT 是一项有相当难度的考试，考生在准备考试的过程中，需有坚强的毅力克服重重困难，需有持久的恒心面对种种挑战。从这个意义上来说，准备 SAT 考试就是为将来锲而不舍勇往直前的人生铺路，以达到自信自强的目的。

参加 SAT 考试，进入理想的美国大学，需要考生的勤奋和努力，也需要家长的支持和培育。家长希望孩子受到良好的教育，更希望孩子敢于面对挫折，经得住生活的考验，有百折不挠的精神。当孩子复习考试遇到困难时，理解与帮助会给孩子温暖；鼓励和鞭策会给孩子动力。敢于参加 SAT 考试并为之付出努力本身就是积极向上的态度和行动。不管结果如何，仅在这一过程中，孩子就会逐渐积累知识，培养毅力。这是不可多得的经验，是现代教育的理念，也是考生家长的期盼。SAT 寄托着家长的希望，孕育着考生的成功！

本书是美国名校入学考试指导系列之一，侧重 SAT 考试作文部分的讲解和训练。常春藤 100 教育资深英语编写组根据多年 SAT 培训的经验，精心挑选了符合新版 SAT 写作的文章和考题。

2004—2015 年的 SAT 作文并不考察学生们的分析能力。然而，之前的作文，在不考虑事实的基础上，只关心学生们的表达能力和说服力，并且作文是每位学生必须要写的。新 SAT 的作文部分是选修题，并不是每所学校都要求的考试，此外也不再考虑学生的说服力了。新 SAT 作文现在考的是三方面的水平，即阅读能力、写作技术及分析深度。此变化相当多，它对于同学们更加艰难。

本书是目前市面上第一本针对新 SAT 作文的考试用书。为了能让同学早日明白新 SAT 作文考试的特点，有针对性地进行复习，同时不再畏惧新 SAT 考试，我们希望同学们在正确使用完本书后，在新 SAT 作文考试中取得好成绩，在此，预祝同学们能够早日拿到美国名校的录取通知书。

Foreword

SAT



You're in the Louvre, roaming from room to room, gallery to gallery, as you admire the artwork. You scrutinize each piece, carefully looking them over, as you think to yourself, *what was the artist thinking when he painted this piece? Why did Delacroix decide to personify Liberty as a woman, and why did he choose to use such dark colors for the people in the background?*

But how would you know to ask these questions?

You're in the Münchner Künstlerhaus, where the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra is performing Johannes Sebastian Bach's *St Matthew Passion*. As you listen to the choir sing out their praises, just as Herr Bach intended, you ask yourself, *why did Bach choose the Gospel of Matthew as the foundation for this Passion? What sort of special qualities did Bach want to express that he saw were reflected in the Gospel of Matthew, rather than any of the other four Gospels? What was his intention in writing this piece?*

But again, what sort of person does it take to ask these questions?

Writing is an act of creation. In that sense, it is much like painting or composition, as in the examples that Bach and Delacroix embody. Writers choose their words like an artist chooses colors and brushes, like a composer chooses a key and a time signature, or like a sculptor chooses his material and design. Few writers one would consider "good" at their craft choose their words without careful thought, and it is truly the mark of a good writer that she can express her thoughts perfectly—if such a thing were possible! —through her words. But to make such a judgment, one must know how to write.

And so, what is the sort of person that can ask himself why Delacroix made his artistic decisions? Why did Delacroix choose this or that color? Why is this patch bright and its surroundings dark? Who can ask herself why Bach chose the Gospel of Matthew

as his inspiration, and what sort of emotions or passions Bach wanted to express? In both cases, the people who are self-aware enough to ask these questions are those who are familiar with the work to such an extent that they can question not only themselves but also the work. They are familiar with the acts of creation implicit in interpreting and creating each piece of art or each piece of music.

And so, this book will be a guide for you to interpret and understand what sort of creation is necessary in understanding writing. Through understanding how other writers create their works, you will understand how best to respond to their acts of creation, evaluate it with a discerning eye like any critic worth his snobby attitude.

One more thing—this book is labeled “New SAT Essay”. But do not think that this book’s contents will be solely for your preparations for the New SAT. Writing is a skill necessary to any career you might choose, whether you are writing situation reports for your superior, making advertisements for your small business, or compiling a news article for publication in the local newspaper. And so, I hope that you learn through the contents of this book how to express yourself and your thoughts through writing. Only then can you walk through the Louvre and question the great masters—*what were you thinking?*

So what does it take to ask questions of Bach or Delacroix? What sort of qualifications does it take to critique great art, no matter what form it takes?

But with that said, let’s refocus on the idea of critique. I don’t think it’s overblown or exaggerated or what have you to call literature a form of art. It is created with intention, and it can convey a particular aesthetic point or sense of beauty. But the question that remains for students of literature—and SAT essay writers—is: what makes us qualified to evaluate and critique works of art? What allows us to judge works of literature and other texts from a critical perspective, and in so doing not only achieve a high mark on the SAT essay, but also form the foundation of skills that will certainly be useful later in our lives?

What makes a critic a critic?

And what sort of expertise do they have that the average person does not?

If this is too high-minded for you, don’t worry too much. This is merely an introduction. We’ll get down to business as soon as you flip to the next page. But for now, put on some thinking music.

And so we begin.

Acknowledgements

SAT

I'd like to thank Frank Ren and Dr. Jimmy Wei for choosing me to write this book. Frank and Dr. Wei have been nothing but supportive in this process, and their patience with me have been nothing short of saintly. I'd also like to thank Ivy100 Education for everything they've done for me.

Jason Zhang

目 录

CONTENTS

Chapter 1 The New SAT	1
Chapter 2 Reading Comprehension	7
Background Knowledge and its Importance	13
Asking the Right Questions	28
Literary Devices	34
Reading Strategies	61
Breaking Down Long Sentences	62
Identifying Key Elements and Reading for Context	65
Summarizing	67
Reading Strategies: A Summary	67
Chapter 3 Writing Well	69
Diction	72
Passive Voice	73
Clarity and Characterization	76
Using Vocabulary	78
Cliché	82
Imagery and Clarity	84
Structure	87
Introductions	87
Thesis Statements	89
Body Paragraphs	91
How to Write Analysis	93
Balancing Evidence and Analysis	97
Conclusions	99
Stylistic Elements	102

Personal Pronouns	103
Confidence Indicators	108
Writing Exercises	113
Writing Well: A Summary	116
Chapter 4 Practice Tests	118
Practice Test One	118
Practice Test One; Notes	121
Practice Test Two	122
Practice Test Two; Notes	126
Practice Test Three	127
Practice Test Three; Notes	129
Practice Test Four	130
Practice Test Four; Notes	133
Afterword	135



Chapter 1

The New SAT

For better or for worse, many people have criticized the SAT that was introduced in 2004. In particular, many disliked how it was a test that could essentially be “gamed”, as in, a test-taker didn’t have to know the material as much as she needed to know the best test-taking strategies. Whether that’s true or not is a subject for debate, but it is my opinion that nothing beats a thorough understanding of the content. But College Board took those criticisms severely to heart, and announced they would start administering a new, redesigned SAT starting from March 2016.

The redesigned SAT reverts to the 1600-point marking scale of the SAT before 2004. The two English sections—Critical Reading and Writing—are now collapsed into one subscore of 800 that is a composite of the two component tests, which are the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing sections of the redesigned SAT. Furthermore, the mandatory 25-minute persuasive essay introduced in 2004 is now an optional 50-minute analytical essay, which means this book will be for an “optional” part of the new SAT. The fact remains,

however, that many highly selective schools will still require a new SAT Essay score, so it is still very much a wise decision to be holding this book in your hands!

Do keep in mind that this essay will no longer be a persuasive essay. Where the old SAT essay asked students to respond to a prompt with their own opinions supported by examples, the new SAT essay demands students analyze and explain how another author develops an argument. This is an exercise rooted in literature classes in high school, more so than the persuasive essay which many critics of the old SAT claimed didn't test what students actually learned in class.

This book will not spend too much time—if any time at all—discussing the relative merits of either test format. It remains, however, that those who wish to achieve acceptance into a selective American college must overcome this hurdle that is the new SAT Essay. So, with that said, let's take a look at the new SAT essay's format.

The following is the sample essay prompt anyone can find on the College Board website:

The essay gives you an opportunity to show how effectively you can read and comprehend a passage and write an essay analyzing the passage. In your essay, you should demonstrate that you have read the passage carefully, present a clear and logical analysis, and use language precisely.

Your essay must be written on the lines provided in your answer booklet; except for the planning page of the answer booklet, you will receive no other paper on which to write. You will have enough space if you write on every line, avoid wide margins, and keep your handwriting to a reasonable size. Remember that people who are not familiar with your handwriting will read what you write. Try to write or print so that what you are writing is legible to those readers.

You have 50 minutes to read the passage and write an essay in response to the prompt provided inside this booklet.

1. Do not write your essay in this booklet. Only what you write on the lined pages

of your answer booklet will be evaluated.

2. An off-topic essay will not be evaluated.

Prompt

As you read the passage below, consider how Paul Bogard uses

- evidence, such as facts or examples, to support claims.
- reasoning to develop ideas and to connect claims and evidence.
- stylistic or persuasive elements, such as word choice or appeals to emotion, to add power to the ideas expressed.

Adapted from Paul Bogard, “Let There Be Dark.” © 2012 by Los Angeles Times. Originally published December 21, 2012.

At my family’s cabin on a Minnesota lake, I knew woods so dark that my hands disappeared before my eyes. I knew night skies in which meteors left smoky trails across sugary spreads of stars. But now, when 8 of 10 children born in the United States will never know a sky dark enough for the Milky Way, I worry we are rapidly losing night’s natural darkness before realizing its worth. This winter solstice, as we cheer the days’ gradual movement back toward light, let us also remember the irreplaceable value of darkness.

All life evolved to the steady rhythm of bright days and dark nights. Today, though, when we feel the closeness of nightfall, we reach quickly for a light switch. And too little darkness, meaning too much artificial light at night, spells trouble for all.

Already the World Health Organization classifies working the night shift as a probable human carcinogen, and the American Medical Association has voiced its unanimous support for “light pollution reduction efforts and glare reduction efforts at both the national and state levels”. Our bodies need darkness to produce the hormone melatonin, which keeps certain cancers from developing, and our bodies need darkness

for sleep. Sleep disorders have been linked to diabetes, obesity, cardiovascular disease and depression, and recent research suggests one main cause of “short sleep” is “long light”. Whether we work at night or simply take our tablets, notebooks and smartphones to bed, there isn’t a place for this much artificial light in our lives.

The rest of the world depends on darkness as well, including nocturnal and crepuscular species of birds, insects, mammals, fish and reptiles. Some examples are well known—the 400 species of birds that migrate at night in North America, the sea turtles that come ashore to lay their eggs—and some are not, such as the bats that save American farmers billions in pest control and the moths that pollinate 80% of the world’s flora. Ecological light pollution is like the bulldozer of the night, wrecking habitat and disrupting ecosystems several billion years in the making. Simply put, without darkness, Earth’s ecology would collapse...

In today’s crowded, louder, more fast-paced world, night’s darkness can provide solitude, quiet and stillness, qualities increasingly in short supply. Every religious tradition has considered darkness invaluable for a soulful life, and the chance to witness the universe has inspired artists, philosophers and everyday stargazers since time began. In a world awash with electric light... how would Van Gogh have given the world his “Starry Night”? Who knows what this vision of the night sky might inspire in each of us, in our children or grandchildren?

Yet all over the world, our nights are growing brighter. In the United States and Western Europe, the amount of light in the sky increases an average of about 6% every year. Computer images of the United States at night, based on NASA photographs, show that what was a very dark country as recently as the 1950s is now nearly covered with a blanket of light. Much of this light is wasted energy, which means wasted dollars. Those of us over 35 are perhaps among the last generation to have known truly dark nights. Even the northern lake where I was lucky to spend my summers has seen its darkness diminish.

It doesn't have to be this way. Light pollution is readily within our ability to solve, using new lighting technologies and shielding existing lights. Already, many cities and towns across North America and Europe are changing to LED streetlights, which offer dramatic possibilities for controlling wasted light. Other communities are finding success with simply turning off portions of their public lighting after midnight. Even Paris, the famed "city of light", which already turns off its monument lighting after 1 a.m., will this summer start to require its shops, offices and public buildings to turn off lights after 2 a.m. Though primarily designed to save energy, such reductions in light will also go far in addressing light pollution. But we will never truly address the problem of light pollution until we become aware of the irreplaceable value and beauty of the darkness we are losing.

Write an essay in which you explain how Paul Bogard builds an argument to persuade his audience that natural darkness should be preserved. In your essay, analyze how Bogard uses one or more of the features in the directions that precede the passage (or features of your own choice) to strengthen the logic and persuasiveness of his argument. Be sure that your analysis focuses on the most relevant features of the passage.

Your essay should not explain whether you agree with Bogard's claims, but rather explain how Bogard builds an argument to persuade his audience.

If you've ever written an essay according to the old SAT's format, you will notice right away that this new format is nothing like it. Old SAT essay prompts were usually a quote that had something to do with the opinion-based essay question. Here, the essay is clearly designed for the student to respond to another writer's work. So why did I refer to the Louvre and Delacroix' *Liberty Leading the People* back in the foreword?

Because, as I think is evident, students writing the new SAT essay will be taking