

MODULE #6: Standardized Testing such as SAT, etc.

Objectives

- Participants will learn more about standardized tests such as the SAT.
- Participants will learn to acquire a bank of strategies for answering sentence completion items in the SAT test.

Context



Standardized testing is part of the college admission process. Some colleges use the standardized testing to examine whether a candidate has the skills necessary to succeed at the college level. However, there are some colleges that do not require test scores for admissions. Therefore, when applying to schools, be sure to know if the school requires scores as part of the application package.

Handouts & Resources Needed:

Handout 6.1: What Do They Mean?

Handout 6.2: The Best Ways on How to Prepare for The SAT

Sheet of paper- one for each participant

Pen/pencils

Index cards

Journals

SAT Reasoning Test book

Activity#1: What Do They Mean? (25 min)

Procedure:

- Icebreaker
- Introduce the importance of standardized tests such as the SAT that are required for some schools.
 - For example, the SAT Reasoning Test is used in the application process to colleges and universities in the United States. The test is made up of multiple choice questions including verbal and mathematics.
- Handout and review, “What Do They Mean” (Handout 6.1) to participants so they can understand the different types of standardized tests for college admission.
- Debriefing

Activity#2: SAT Vocabulary Cards (55 min)

Procedure:

- Icebreaker
- In order to be prepared to take the test, students must practice, practice, practice. One of the strategies to study for the SAT Reasoning Test is to make flashcards that will help them raise their score. Taking the test early will give students the opportunity to re-take the test before admissions deadlines arrive if they had a bad first test day.
- Facilitator will obtain a SAT test book from the school library to look for vocabulary words.
- Facilitator will use the vocabulary words from the book.
- Ask participants to bring index cards because it will help them learn about and succeed on the test.
- Write the vocabulary words and its definition in the blackboard.
- Have participants write the vocabulary word in front of the card and the definition in the back card.
- Once participants finish with the vocabulary words, have them look through the tips on how they can prepare for the standardized test (Handout 6.2).
- Debriefing

PSAT, SAT, AP, ACT and CLEP: What Do They Mean?

Preliminary Standardized Aptitude Test - PSAT/NMSQT

The PSAT/NMSQT is an easier and shorter version of the SAT I. It provides the best opportunity to practice and prepare for the actual SAT I, the test that most colleges require for admission. You should take the PSAT in the fall semester of your sophomore and/or junior year. The score reports will assess your verbal, math and writing skills, which are important for academic success in college. The more you practice, the better your scores will be on the real exam. PSAT/NMSQT scores are also used in selecting students for many scholarship and enrichment programs including the National Merit Scholarship program. For more info, ask your guidance counselor or check out:

www.collegeboard.org/psat/student/html/indx001.html

Standardized Aptitude Test - SAT

College admission officers use the SAT I Reasoning Test to predict how well you are likely to do in college. The SAT I is a three-hour exam which measures your verbal and math reasoning skills, which develop over time. This exam is best taken in the spring of your junior year or in September of your senior year at the latest. You can get more information from your guidance counselor or by checking out - ***www.ets.org***

American College Test -- ACT

This test is usually required by many of the mid-western, western, and southern US colleges. The ACT measures your academic achievement in four areas: English, math, reading, and natural sciences. Some colleges that require ACT scores may also request SAT scores to fully determine how prepared you are for college level work. This exam should be taken in your junior year. The ACT program also offers a preliminary exam to help you prepare for the actual test. For more information see the ACT website at -

www.act.org

Advanced Placement Program - AP

If you are motivated and want to get a head start on your college career, this is the program for you! The Advanced Placement Program offers high school students an opportunity to pursue college-level studies and to receive college credit for up to 32 different AP courses. AP courses are more demanding than regular high school courses, but the opportunity to develop and sharpen your analytical reasoning skills while developing solid study habits will improve your chances of acceptance into college and contribute to your academic achievement in college and your future success. This is also a great way to save money for college since these courses cost less than \$100 -- a fraction of the amount that a college course would cost. Generally, students who participate in the AP program have a high GPA, but if you are highly motivated and willing to work hard, AP courses may be the right courses for you. For more information, look for the AP Program on the ETS website at -- [**www.ets.org**](http://www.ets.org)

College Level Entrance Program -- CLEP

This test offers another way to get college credit while you are still in high school. If you have excelled in a particular subject in high school, you should consider taking a general or subject CLEP exam. For just \$44, you can receive college credit for up to 34 subjects, which is almost nothing compared to the cost of a college course. CLEP offers both general and subject examinations. The General exams measure your familiarity with material that would be covered in the first two years of college such as English Composition, humanities, college mathematics, and social sciences. The Subject Examinations measure knowledge of specific subjects and are used to grant credit for or exemption from some college courses. Check with the institution that you are planning to attend to find out its requirements. For a complete list of the exams and the phone numbers of testing centers, ask your ASPIRA or high school guidance counselor or check out -- [**www.collegeboard.com/clep**](http://www.collegeboard.com/clep)

HANDOUT 6.2

THE BEST WAYS TO PREPARE FOR THE SAT

- Learn more about the SAT Reasoning Test to know what to expect on test day which include types of questions and vocabulary on the SAT and how the test is scored.
- In your Junior Year, start taking the SAT or ACT preparation classes. It is not too early!! If you reach your score goal, the test will be out of the way! If not, you'll have plenty of time to study for the fall sitting.
- In your senior year, retake the SAT or ACT if you are not happy with your score, or have not yet taken the test, this is the time to take care of it.
- Go to your public library to check out the SAT Reasoning Test book. Review the book and highlight the concepts and skills assessed on the SAT.
- Read and write as much as possible.
- Navigate these available resources for independent study:
 - College Board: <http://www.collegeboard.com>
 - College Compass: <http://www.edonline.com/collegecompass>
 - Educational testing service: <http://www.ets.org>
 - Mapping-Your-Future: <http://www.mapping-you-future.org>
 - The ACT test prep program online:
<http://www.actstudent.org/testprep/index.html>
- Take the practice SAT tests offered in the books found at public libraries.
 - This will help you find your weaknesses and improve your skills on those areas.
- Say to yourself that you can do it!! That your dedication, focus, and perseverance will help you to succeed on the test.