



2008 ADVANCED SAT/Verbal Prep Camp (entering grades 11-12)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Mercer Education's *ADVANCED SAT/VERBAL PREP CAMP* for students entering grades 11-12 meets for two and one-half hours per day, twice a week for a total of 20 hours of intensive instruction and exercises. There are two one-month sessions, and students may attend just the first session, just the second session, or both. Students are required to provide a copy of recent SAT test results in which they received a score of 680 or higher on both the Writing and Critical Reading Sections, as well as a score of 4 or higher on the timed-writing essay. Students are scheduled in groups of approximately the same proficiency, and the small classes, not exceeding six students, allow teachers to tailor sessions to each student's needs. Over the course of four weeks, students complete four SAT tests as part of their homework, and have the opportunity to take one complete test under testing conditions similar to those of the real SAT.

This group is for students who wish to raise their high-level performance on the SAT to the highest level. To qualify for this course, students must have already scored at or above the 95th percentile ranking of students who have taken the SAT (this means that qualifying students, as stated above, must have scored at least 680 on the Critical Reading and 680 on the Writing sections with a timed-writing score of 4 or higher on one of ME's *Practice SAT* tests (ME administers these tests once a month) or on a real SAT test. Students must provide a copy of their test results.

The curriculum in this course provides an exceptionally challenging, integrative approach to mastering grammar rules, producing outstanding essay writing, strengthening reading skills, advancing sophistication and depth of ideas, and gaining a complete understanding of test-taking strategies. Additional emphasis is placed on building impressive vocabulary, broadening range of reading material, and cultivating insightful analysis and discussion. Students continue to strengthen time management skills, take multiple tests, identify areas of weakness, and receive feedback and score analysis from experienced instructors. At the end of each session, parents receive a progress report appraising student's work in the course and suggestions for additional academic improvement.

ADVANCED CRITICAL READING (1 hour each class; total 8 hours)

Every student receives focused instruction in the Critical Reading portion of the new SAT, which includes strategies for tackling sentence completion and critical reading questions. Advanced instructional materials include a wide range of established texts that clearly present techniques proven to raise scores; they also include essays and newspaper and journal pieces that provide the foundation for learning advanced vocabulary (50+ words per week) and honing reading and analytic skills.

ADVANCED WRITING SECTION (1.5 hour each class; total 12 hours)

The new SAT includes a 60-minute writing section (25 min. essay, 35 min. multiple choice). During this one and a half hours of the camp, students receive focused instruction in the writing section of the SAT which includes regular in-class timed practice together with follow-up critiques; a thorough review of grammar and usage; and SAT writing tests with methodical analysis of each student's work.

A STUDENT’S TYPICAL DAY (TOTAL 2.5 HOURS INSTRUCTION EACH CLASS, TWICE A WEEK)

Preparing for the verbal portion of standardized tests involves the integration of multiple language learning areas including reading, writing, vocabulary development, and grammar. Because of the overlap of skills and student diversity, the information presented here estimates the time reserved for direct instruction in these areas. Times may vary depending on the needs of the class.

Time	Topic	VERBAL: Skills Developed / Activities
15 minutes	Vocabulary-in-context, discussion and writing usage exercises	Building vocabulary from context using advanced reading material, work on memorization skills, usage of “new working vocabulary” in writing assignments and exercises, daily and cumulative quizzes. Students will learn approximately 250 or more SAT and college-level words.
45 minutes	SAT review, practice and analysis, supplemental advanced reading, and exercises	Students prepare and engage in in-depth analysis of assigned supplementary material to build sophistication, depth, and range of reading comprehension and analysis; they review and analyze homework test results and do practice exercises in class geared to address areas of weakness; instruction reinforces readings on test taking strategies, and students learn additional vocabulary from SAT readings with daily and cumulative quizzes.
90 minutes	SAT Timed Writing, Outstanding Style and Content, Grammar & Error Identification	Students do extensive preparation for the writing section of the new SAT. They gain a comprehensive review of grammar and error ID practice with regular in-class exercises and learn concise, logical writing in a timed test situation. From the range and depth of their readings and discussions, students learn to apply new content and ideas to enhancing their writing with more insightful, interesting, and cogent statements and arguments.