

GENERAL INFORMATION

Mercer Education's *ADVANCED SAT/VERBAL PREP CAMP* for students entering grades 11-12 meets for 2.5 hours per day, twice a week for a total of 20 hours of instruction and exercises. There are two one-month sessions, and students may attend just the first session, just the second session, or both. Enrollment is limited 1) to students who can 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, or 2) to students who meet those criteria on an SAT assessment test provided by Mercer Education. Students are scheduled in groups of approximately the same proficiency, and the small classes, not exceeding eight students, allow teachers to tailor sessions to each student's needs. Over the course of four weeks, students complete the verbal portions of three 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 assessment or practice SAT tests (which ME administers by appointment) 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 offering 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 SAT, which includes strategies for tackling sentence completion and critical reading questions. Advanced instructional materials include 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 (approximately 350 words) and honing reading and analytic skills.

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

The 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 multiple 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 to which each group of students brings different strengths and weaknesses. Because of this overlap of skills and student diversity, times dedicated to various components may vary depending on the needs of the class.

- ▶ Extensive Timed Writing practice with focus on developing voice, style and content

- ▶ Systematic Paragraph Revision practice with focus on logic, transitions, and cohesion

- ▶ Comprehensive Grammar Review with focus on Error Identification & Sentence Revision

- ▶ Extensive Vocabulary Building (300+ words) with focus on vocabulary in context

- ▶ Methodical Test Analysis with focus on SAT strategies and identifying weak areas for review

- ▶ Supplemental advanced reading and exercises for maximizing test results