

### Examples of the SAT Essay and the ACT Essay

| SAT Essay   | ACT Essay  |
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| <p data-bbox="191 412 894 492">Think carefully about the issue presented in the following excerpt and the assignment below.</p> <div data-bbox="191 537 1031 883" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p data-bbox="201 545 1003 878">Many powerful leaders throughout history have considered themselves above the law and acted in ways that violated the laws or guidelines of their own country or group. People are quick to condemn these leaders, but shouldn't leaders be held to different standards? If what a leader is doing benefits the majority of the people in a country or group, it does not matter if a law or guidelines is violated.</p> </div> <p data-bbox="191 935 1010 1187"><b>Assignment:</b> Should leaders of a country or group be judged by different standards? Plan and write an essay in which you develop your point of view on this issue. Support your position with reasoning and examples taken from your reading, studies, experience, or observations. (source: College Board web site)</p> | <p data-bbox="1062 412 1892 919">Educators debate extending high school to five years because of increasing demands on students from employers and colleges to participate in extracurricular activities and community service in addition to having high grades. Some educators support extending high school to five years because they think students need more time to achieve all that is expected of them. Other educators do not support extending high school to five years because they think students would lose interest in school and attendance would drop in the fifth year. In your opinion, should high school be extended to five years?</p> <p data-bbox="1062 971 1871 1175">In your essay, take a position on this question. You may write about either one of the two points of view given, or you may present a different point of view on this question. Use specific reasons and examples to support your position. (source: ACT web site)</p> |

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| <p>Think carefully about the issue presented in the following excerpt and the assignment below.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>Technology promises to make our lives easier, freeing up time for leisure pursuits. But the rapid pace of technological innovation and the split second processing capabilities of computers that can work virtually nonstop have made all of us feel rushed. We have adopted the relentless pace of the very machines that were supposed to simplify our lives, with the result that, whether at work or play, people do not feel like their lives have changed for the better.</p> <p>Adapted from Karen Finucan, “Life in the Fast Lane”</p> </div> <p><b>Assignment:</b> Do changes that make our lives easier not necessarily make them better? Plan and write an essay in which you develop your point of view on this issue. Support your position with reasoning and examples taken from your reading, studies, experiences, or observations. (source: <i>The Official SAT Study Guide, 2004</i>)</p> | <p>In some states, legislators have debated whether teenagers should be required to maintain a “C” grade average in school before receiving a driver’s license. Some people think this would be a good policy because having passing grades shows that students are responsible enough to be good drivers. Other people think such a policy would not be appropriate because they see no relationship between grades in school and driving skills. In your opinion, should teenagers be required to maintain a “C” average in school before receiving a driver’s license?</p> <p>In your essay, take a position on this question. You may write about either one of the two points of view given, or you may present a different point of view on this question. Use specific reasons and examples to support your position. (source: <i>The Real ACT Prep Book</i>)</p> |

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| <p>Think carefully about the issue presented in the following excerpt and the assignment below.</p> <div data-bbox="197 456 1031 883" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <p>A mistakenly cynical view of human behavior holds that people are primarily driven by selfish motives: the desire for wealth, for power, or for fame. Yet history gives us many examples of individuals who have sacrificed their own welfare for a cause or a principle that they regarded as more important than their own lives. Conscience—that powerful inner voice that tells us what is right and what is wrong—can be a more compelling force than money, power or fame.</p> </div> <p><b>Assignment:</b> Is conscience a more powerful motivator than money, fame, or power? Plan and write an essay in which you develop your point of view on this issue. Support your position with reasoning and examples taken from your reading, studies, experience, or observation. (source: <i>The Official SAT Study Guide, 2004</i>)</p> | <p>In some high schools, students are required to complete a certain number of community service hours prior to graduation. Some people think community service is a good requirement because they think students will benefit from this experience. Other people think schools should not require community service because students will resent the requirement and, as a result, will not benefit from the experience. In your opinion, should high school require students to complete a certain number of hours of community service?</p> <p>In your essay, take a position on this question. You may write about either one of the two points of view given, or you may present a different point of view on this question. Use specific reasons and examples to support your position. (source: <i>The Real ACT Prep Book</i>)</p> |

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| <p>Think carefully about the issue presented in the following excerpt and the assignment below.</p> <div data-bbox="197 451 1033 878" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <p>The old saying, “be careful what you wish for,” may be an appropriate warning. The drive to achieve a particular goal can dangerously narrow one’s perspective and encourage the fantasy that success in one endeavor will solve all of life’s difficulties. In fact, success can sometimes have unexpected consequences. Those who propel themselves toward the achievement of one goal often find that their lives are worse once “success” is achieved than they were before.</p> </div> <p><b>Assignment:</b> Can success be disastrous? Plan and write an essay in which you develop your point of view on this issue. Support your position with reasoning and examples taken from your reading, studies, experience, or observations. (source: <i>The Official SAT Study Guide, 2004</i>)</p> | <p>Some high schools in the United States have considered creating separate classroom for male and female students in subjects such as mathematics and science. Some educators think separate classes will be beneficial because students will be less distracted from learning. Other educators think having separate classes for females and males will not be beneficial because it seems to support false stereotypes about difference in ability between males and females. In your opinion, should high schools create separate classes for male and female students?</p> <p>In your essay, take a position on this question. You may write about either one of the two points of view given, or you may present a different point of view on this question. Use specific reasons and examples to support your position. (source: <i>The Real ACT Prep Book</i>)</p> |