

Testing Teens: SAT Edition

Proper preparation prevents poor performance. Say that three times fast.

Whether it's an upcoming presentation, a tennis match, or Thanksgiving dinner, proper preparation will determine your success. The key word here is "proper" because sometimes it's hard to know how much preparation is adequate or appropriate. Especially when dealing with standardized tests like the SAT.

If you *have* engaged in any of these activities, you may be familiar with the feeling of nervous stomach aches, broken tennis rackets, or burnt turkeys, respectively. Well, in the academic world, we refer to such manifestations of improper preparation as burn-out, anxiety, and frustration.

And they are most common amongst teenagers taking standardized tests like the SAT. If you have one of these in your home—testing teenagers, that is—the improper preparation symptoms of burn-out, anxiety, and frustration may be rearing their ugly heads and testing everybody's patience.

No matter how many color-coded flashcards and sparkling new sets of Sharpies you buy, it's only a matter of time until they all get scribbled over and thrown aside through a stream of angry tears. Slight exaggeration maybe, but not uncommon if your student's stuck on a particularly annoying unit of SAT grammar where they're being forced to learn the intricacies of a language they thought they already knew.

Not to fear: in the best interests of your patience, your student's tear ducts, and the tips of those Sharpies, we've researched and discovered the most "proper" way to prepare for the SAT.

Not too much, not too little, and focusing on just the right stuff.

Imagine your typical SAT prep class. A bunch of sweaty, bored teens sitting in a room after school waiting until they can go home. Reviewing concepts they already know, or driving the ends of their pencils into their temples while the teacher breezes past what they actually would like to know. The direct interacting with a teacher is beneficial, as is merely becoming general familiar with SAT format. But this isn't necessarily the best setting for addressing your student's specific concerns or helping them achieve their specific target scores to get the scholarships they need.

We paint the contrast of this image, and while your teens may still be sweaty, they definitely aren't bored. With the right type of motivation, goal-setting, feedback, and reward (*FREE MONEY*), we keep your student engaged with the SAT with a level of intimacy they never imagined possible.

With this approach, we not only boost your student's test scores, we also boost the scholarship dollars you receive in return. On average, last year we saved families attending both public and private colleges throughout the U.S: \$28,825 on public colleges and \$92,274 on private colleges.

So, where do we begin? With a test, of course!

We utilize a diagnostic test for your student to determine: whether to take the SAT or ACT; what their strengths and weaknesses are; and which areas to focus on and how much time to devote to those areas.

Once that's taken care of, we draft a plan of action with your student and get after it until it's all done and finished and over...and you, your student, and your Sharpies can all kick back and relax as the scholarships and acceptance letters start flying in.

Want to know more about preparing properly, testing teenagers, and securing scholarships?

Check out our new book: *Test Prep = FREE Money for College*. It's a great read after a good cry.