



Advanced SAT*/Verbal Prep Camp (entering grades 11-12)

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Mercer Education's *ADVANCED SAT/VERBAL PREP CAMP* is for students who wish to raise their high-level performance on the SAT to the highest level. Designed primarily for students entering grades 11 and 12, the class meets for 2.5 hours per day from 3:30-6pm, twice a week (either M/Th or T/F) for 4 weeks for a total of 20 hours** of instruction and exercises. There are two one-month sessions; students may attend just the first session, just the second session, or both. Enrollment is limited to students who have already scored at or above the 90th percentile ranking of students who have taken the SAT. This means that qualifying students must either 1) provide a copy of recent SAT test results in which they received a verbal score of 640 or higher, as well as a score of 4 or higher (on a scale of 2-8) on all three of the "writing dimensions" of the timed-writing essay, or 2) meet those same 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 attend more fully to each student's needs. Over the course of four weeks, students complete the verbal portions of 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.

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 READING (APPROXIMATELY 1 HOUR EACH CLASS; TOTAL 8 HOURS)

Every student receives focused instruction in the Reading Test of the SAT, which includes strategies for tackling 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.

* SAT is a registered trademark of the College Board, which was not involved in the production of, and does not endorse, Mercer Education's website, products or services.

** The camp only very rarely meets for 17 hours in ME's first session because of the school closing for Independence Day (7/4), but the course content and tuition rates are the same.

ADVANCED WRITING AND LANGUAGE (APPROXIMATELY 1.5 HOURS EACH CLASS; TOTAL 12 HOURS)

The SAT includes a Writing and Language Test and an “optional” timed essay. During this one and a half hours of the camp, students receive focused instruction in the Writing and Language Test of the SAT which includes a thorough review of grammar and usage, and multiple SAT Writing and Language Tests with methodical analysis of each student’s work. In addition, students receive extensive writing instruction and complete three timed essays (with the option to complete more) at home, which will be critiqued by the instructor.

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, analysis, and content
- ▶ Systematic Paragraph Revision practice with focus on logic, transitions, and cohesion
- ▶ Comprehensive Grammar Review with focus on Sentence Correction
- ▶ 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