



The Politics, Psychometrics and Promise of the New SAT Writing Section

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Revised SAT

- First administered in March of 2005
- First high school class impacted where high school graduates of 2006
- New content in Mathematics
 - Higher level Algebra
- Verbal changed to Critical Reading
 - Emphasize on skills learned in school
- Introduced a new Writing Section

Class of 2006

- Approximately 1.4 million graduating seniors took the SAT at some point in their high school career
- Represents a participation rate for high school seniors of approximately 48%
- Approximately 54% of students are female
- Approximately 25%-30% are under-represented minority students
- Approximately 20% of students identify a language other than English as a first language

New SAT Writing Section

- Was part of the SAT Subject Test Battery prior to March of 2005
- 49 multiple-choice items
- 1 essay, timed at 25 minutes
- Essay is always administered as the first section of the test

New SAT Writing Section

- Multiple-Choice
 - Identify sentence errors
 - Improve sentences
 - Improve Paragraphs
- Essay
 - Use of precise and appropriate language
 - Present ideas logically
 - Develop a point of view
 - Express their ideas logically

Communication plan for the new Writing Test

- K-12 educational community
 - How to prepare students for the new test
- Higher Education community
 - How the new test can be used in admissions and placement decisions
- Educational measurement community
 - Technical characteristics of the new SAT

Communication plan for the new Writing Test

- National and Regional Forums
- End user publications
- Technical publications

2004 College Board National Forum

- Workshops led by test development committee members on the changes to all sections of the SAT
 - Included breakouts that were section specific
- Workshops for preparing ESL students for the Writing test
- College/University users discussed how they planned to use the new Writing Test
- Bridgeman and Schmidt reviewed the technical characteristics of the new test

End user publications

- *A Guide to the New SAT Essay*
 - Showed example prompts
 - Explained holistic scoring
 - Sample responses at each score point
- *20 Outstanding Essays*
 - Actual student responses that received grades of 6
 - Explained why essays received their grade
 - Discussed key principles of good essays and how the essays demonstrated the skill

Technical publications

- Alignment to writing curriculum
- Projected predictive validity using pilot data
- Summary research notes
- SAT predictive validity
- SAT differential validity

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