

# Description of Classes

## SAT Intensive Workshop

As we all had our own wealth of experience in preparing TOEFL and GRE tests, we well understood how important a role intensive training plays. Comparing the SAT average scores of students in China and American students have achieved, there are only about 200-300 points difference. Based on those facts, we have done extensive research on the different training methods and their effectiveness. We have found that the current traditional SAT training program, involving lectures and occasional practice tests, is not suitable for our outstanding children. As such, our children are not aiming for the “standard” score: we are overachievers. Traditional SAT courses offer lectures to teach students the test strategies, which is very important. However, after the students have mastered these strategies, they need to increase their familiarity with the test as well as speed.

In coming up with a new method, we talked to a famous and successful SAT training company in China to learn their training method and strategies. Thus, we have developed our own intensive training program. Last year, we formed a small group to validate this program with a result of dramatic improvement and success. The method works. As we all know, the SAT testing format is extremely formulized.

What We Saw from Last Year’s Class:

- Drastic increase in scores from students on the 10<sup>th</sup> grade PSAT versus 11<sup>th</sup> grade PSAT:
  - 3 weeks of practice: from **206** to **240**
  - 2 weeks of practice: from around **200** to **227**
- Student’s reading speed and accuracy significantly increased after about 10 practice tests and get stronger the more they take. The tests are real SAT questions instead of simulation questions made from different copies. Therefore, they are accurate indicators of the student’s skill as well as the SAT itself.
- Group discussion as well as some degree of peer pressure in the group makes students not repeat the same mistake and memory greatly improve. However, the environment is collaborative, so there is no competition among the students but only improvement.
- Less idle time: Students are constantly engaged in doing the problems because of time constraints as opposed to lectures where students often don’t pay attention.

Our Training Methods:

- **8 Hours a Day:** Students will do 2-3 sets of SAT questions every day, and then grade their tests and sort through an error report.
- **Identifying and Improving Weaknesses:** The teacher will fully analyze and explain the test questions so students can understand where they are struggling and create goals for the next test they take. When students are aware of their weaknesses on the test, it is easier for them to know where to focus their energy in preparation and what pitfalls to be aware of.
- **Additional Review Material:** Students will receive additional long passages every day to read so that they can increase their reading speed and comprehension as well as vocabulary lists comprised from the real test questions to study.

Summer Training Classes and Targets:

- **Silver:** Current SAT score less than 1800,
  - Target: Increase 200+ points in 2-3 weeks and 200-400+ points in 4-6 weeks
- **Gold:** Current SAT score between 1800-2000
  - Target: Reach 2100 in 2-3 weeks and 2200+ in 4-6 weeks

- **Supreme:** Current SAT score above 2000
  - Target: Reach 2200 in 2-3 weeks and 2300+ in 4-6 weeks

## SAT/PSAT Classes

### S101: SAT Foundation - Reading

- This SAT Foundations course focuses on building vocabulary and Reading comprehension skills that are the foundation for the verbal sections of the SAT. In-class lectures and exercises will be supplemented with reading comprehension homework assignments, vocabulary quizzes, and an end-of-session report card to help each student exceed his/her potential.

### S102: SAT Foundation - Writing

- This SAT Foundations course focuses on general test-taking skills in the Writing sections with a focus on long-term improvement over a two-hour class. In-class lectures and exercises will be supplemented with homework assignments, quizzes, and an end-of-session report card to help each student exceed his/her potential.

## Speech/Debate Classes

In today's highly globalized, interconnected world; having good ideas is not nearly enough. You must be able to succinctly explain and convince others (employers, peers, investors, etc) that the idea is "good." This art of persuasion can help students not only in current studies (presentations, group work, and writing), but also in their future endeavors in college, grad school, and beyond in the world force; because, persuasion is a life-skill that can reap a life-time of dividends if prepared and tuned early.

### D101: Public Speaking-Beginners

The goal for the beginners' class is effective public speaking. Students will learn by lectures, observation, and, most importantly, practice and constructive criticism. At the end of the class, students will be able to effectively and deliberately transmit information, persuade listeners and simply tell a story or ideas to an audience. The course will cover voice projection, eye contact, gestures, and basic argumentation skills.

### D201: Public Speaking/Debate-Advanced

The goals for the advanced class are potent argumentation and better debate skills. The advanced class will continue and expand upon the objectives of the beginners classes. Students will be given resolutions each week and prepare affirmative and negative cases for that resolution. Practice debates, stop/start debates and constructive criticism will be used to improve the student's debate skills.