

## 20 Outstanding SAT Essays

### Analysis Assignment

As a group, you must first select five essays from among the twenty to evaluate—one from each area listed below.

- Point of View, essays 1-4
- Critical Thinking, essays 5-8
- Types of Evidence, essays 9-12
- Organization, essays 13-16
- Use of Language, essays 17-20

#### Task 1

For each essay, you must persuasively explain why it received a score of 6, the highest on the College Board's SAT rubric, and how it commendably responded to the prompt below.

1. Explain how the writer effectively displayed his or her mastery in each of the five areas: Point of View, Critical Thinking, Types of Evidence, Organization, and Use of Language.
2. Provide two examples of supporting evidence for each area (quotations from the essay itself).
3. Describe briefly how the evidence you have chosen illustrates the essay's strength in the particular category.

#### Task 2

Compare the five essays you have chosen, and rank them in order of their persuasiveness. Your goal is to convince me that you have accurately ranked the essays. Consider the importance of your thesis, your explanation of the criteria upon which you based your decision, the evidence you choose to support your rankings, and the organization of your response (compare/contrast, strongest point last).

#### **PROMPT**

*Many persons believe that to move up the ladder of success and achievement, they must forget the past, repress it, and relinquish it. But others have just the opposite view. They see old memories as a chance to reckon with the past and integrate past and present.*

adapted from Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot, *I've Known Rivers: Lives of Loss and Liberation*

Assignment:

Do memories hinder or help people in their effort to learn from the past and succeed in the present? 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.