

IVY

Composition

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Trademark Universal Press

-New York-

www.beatthetest.com

First Edition

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Published in the United States by Trademark Universal Press, a division of
Trademark Universal, Inc._

Publisher: Tom Mathew

Cover photo art by TMU Production Department

Cover art, illustrations, layout by: TMU Production Department

Second Edition

ISBN: 978-1 -942576-18-1

Manufactured and printed with pride in the United States of America.

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Feel free visit us at [IVY Verbal Review.Com](http://IVYVerbalReview.Com) if you have any questions.

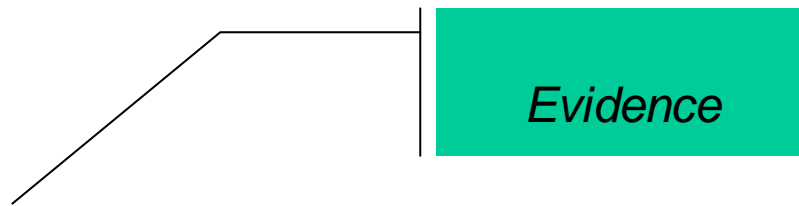
Rapid Outlines

Real simple

Just remember **MC123**

Main Idea → Agree or Disagree (not both) → Relevant Thesis

Example 1



Example 2

Example 3

Conclusion → Affirmation of thesis

Avoid the Passive Voice

Examples:

It happened yesterday.....

I wanted to go to the movies yesterday, but ...

We were going to go to the game and then we decided to go to ...

This is the way you are taught to write in high school. Problem is that top schools admit kids who write well in the active voice.

Active Voice

Yesterday was not a great

Yesterday, we went to the movies

The game was sold out, so we played

The active voice will be emphasized throughout this class as it is scored higher and it is also difficult to master.

MC123

Main Idea



Agreement or disagreement;
not both. **This is not a
summary.**

Examples

- 1 Least Important
- 2 More Important
- 3 Most Important



"Evidence" must agree with
your main idea.

Conclusion



Wrap up your argument;
not a summary

Five paragraphs are all you need to write. Simple

- No more than 400 words.
- Target 250 to 300 words.
- It is easier to write.

Industrial development is more important than quality of life issues.

Schools should not teach technology courses as technology constantly changes.

Voters should make up their own opinions as opposed to following the advice of a specific political party.

Automobiles and trucks have caused more problems than they have solved

Homework

The role of protecting the nation should be borne by the people as opposed to the government.

RAPID OUTLINE

Essay

Target Audience

We are all good writers. In fact, most of us are excellent writers when it comes to addressing issues that we are passionate about. We are also very good at writing well to those we love and hold dearest. Unfortunately, most of the people we write to are not judging our writing. Furthermore, they have limited power to change our lives dramatically if they do not like what they are reading.

The major problem with writing skills today is that we are not able to properly address whom we are writing to. More often than not, we have multiple audiences to address in the same letter. We also have to be aware of who we are writing too. For example, if we write an letter supporting the state's right to restrict personal liberties, will it be read by someone who opposes that view.

We all have differing opinions on different subjects and we cannot expect to agree on everything. When you submit a writing sample, the critical question is not what to write, but whom to write it to.

So who is our target audience when we prepare a writing sample for the SAT II. Our target audience always must be the university's admissions committee. Our secondary audience must always be the staffers of the admissions department who go through each application and sort everything out.

It sounds simple. But you still have to be careful. Most staffers are paid dismally. There is a world of difference between a university's endowment and its pay scale. Furthermore, other staffers work for a university so that they can attend other parts of the school at a cheaper rate. This means that many of the staffers cannot easily afford to attend the institutions that they work for. Many staffers are also unionized. This leads us to believe they are more likely to lean toward the left politically.

What does this mean for you? Well, your audience is going to be a woman or man who has a low income. Your audience has limited room for advancement; most likely they will never have the opportunity to attend the university that you are applying to. University employees know that they will not take over the world. They chose to work for the university for easier hours and a relaxed, albeit sometimes stressful, work environment.

These staffers generally read *The New York Times* avidly. They are familiar with the paper's primary writers and viewpoints. This newspaper also reflects staffers' liberal views of the university process. Most university employees believe the university experience is a liberating period in a young man's life and relish the opportunity to be part of a student's transition from childhood to adulthood. To a large extent, these individuals have a positive view on life and revere the responsibility that they have in admitting tomorrow's leaders into their hallowed ivy-covered halls.

University staffers are similar in that they enjoy helping very bright young men become amazing leaders. But they also realize that they have an awesome responsibility; they have to admit the best of the best. This is harder than most people think due to the unprecedented amount of applications to universities.

Universities have figured out that most students are using "ghost writers" to write out essays. Average students suddenly write as if they were Herman Hesse. Others make arguments as if they were Cicero. Highly unlikely from the staffers perspective. We have no opinion on ghost writing and encourage students to improve their writing skills.

A youthful outlook, as opposed to youth itself, keeps you young.

RAPID OUTLINE

Main Idea

Example 1

Example 2

Example 3

Conclusion

In class Exercise

AGREEMENT

Foods containing modified DNA are beneficial to society

The US must always protect its interests first.

Ethnic hatred is nothing more than jealousies over wealth disparities.

It is true that wisdom comes with experience.

Homework

It is not the role of government to prepare high school students for a technological future.

RAPID OUTLINE

Main Idea

Example 1

Example 2

Example 3

Conclusion

Connectors

Try using common connectors such as so, also, and, and because to smooth out your paragraphs.

Incorporate while, however, despite, and although to add sophistication to your prose.

BASIC

Continuity

- In addition,
- Furthermore,

Conclusion

- Thus,
- Clearly,

ADVANCED (Time Based)

Continuity

- Subsequently,
- Consequently,

Conclusion

- Ultimately,

Competition is good.

RAPID OUTLINE

Main Idea

Example 1

Example 2

Example 3

Conclusion

A series of horizontal lines spaced evenly down the page, intended for handwritten notes or responses.

In class Exercise

CONNECTOR

Lead contamination in paint can adversely affect a child's health.

School's that provide an early breakfast have higher standardized test scores.

Lulu always gets into trouble by listening to her friends.

Legalization of marijuana would greatly reduce the cost of anti-nausea drugs to chemotherapy patients.

Homework

People are different and we need to all get along.

RAPID OUTLINE

Main Idea

Example 1

Example 2

Example 3

Conclusion

Public transportation is a huge waste of government resources.

RAPID OUTLINE

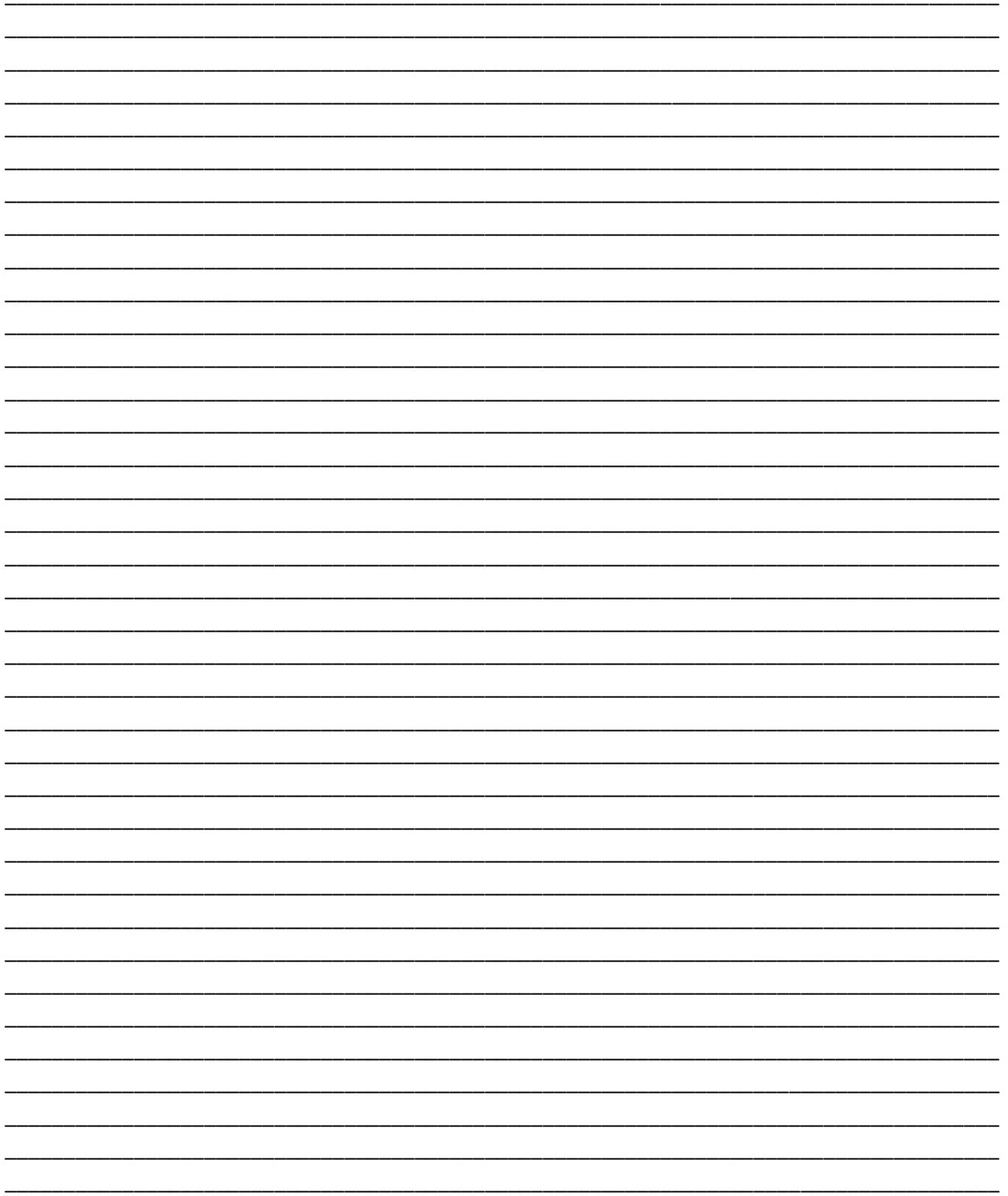
Main Idea

Example 1

Example 2

Example 3

Conclusion



In class Exercise

CONNECTORS (cont.)

Two examples of environmental waste at schools

One example of how large corporations control government

Two examples disagreeing with more prisons in New York State

Three reasons why public transportation needs to be expanded on weekends

Homework

We respect human rights in the United States.

RAPID OUTLINE

Main Idea

Example 1

Example 2

Example 3

Conclusion

The Mayor of Ibsen must decide between two projects, a museum or a new high school. Evaluate the reasons for selecting one of the projects. Detail your assumptions for the project.

RAPID OUTLINE

Main Idea

Example 1

Example 2

Example 3

Conclusion

In class Exercise

Comparisons

Sports cars are just as safe as family sedans for driving.

This toothpaste tastes better.

George Bush is a better President than Barack Obama.

I am indifferent to Coke or Pepsi.

Homework

America must protect its interests first.

RAPID OUTLINE

Main Idea

Example 1

Example 2

Example 3

Conclusion

Lined writing area consisting of 30 horizontal lines for text entry.

In class Exercise

CONCLUSION

Positive reasons for improving teacher education

Positive reasons for better prenatal care

Zachary's reasons for fixing his car's tires

Negative reasons for checking bags prior to getting on an airplane

Homework

Those in power should stay in power (relate to politics, education, and business).

RAPID OUTLINE

Main Idea

Example 1

Example 2

Example 3

Conclusion

I want to go to Harvard so I can be rich, famous and successful.

RAPID OUTLINE

Main Idea

Example 1

Example 2

Example 3

Conclusion

In class Exercise

OPENER

People feel better on sunny days.

Life is a piece of cake.

Mental fitness is as important as physical fitness.

Companies should provide more affordable day care.

Homework

Students should have rights.

RAPID OUTLINE

Main Idea

Example 1

Example 2

Example 3

Conclusion
