AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL INCIDENT ESSAY EXAMPLE Study Guide

Autobiographical incident essay example: Unlocking the Secrets to Crafting a Compelling Personal Narrative

Writing an autobiographical incident essay is a powerful way to share personal experiences that have shaped your life. Whether you're a student preparing for an assignment, a writer honing your skills, or someone interested in exploring storytelling, understanding how to craft a well-structured autobiographical incident essay is essential. In this comprehensive guide, we will explore what an autobiographical incident essay entails, provide an example, and offer detailed tips on writing an engaging and meaningful personal narrative.

Understanding the Autobiographical Incident Essay

What Is an Autobiographical Incident Essay?

An autobiographical incident essay is a narrative piece that recounts a specific event or incident from the writer?s life. Unlike general autobiographies, which cover broad life stories, these essays focus on a single, memorable incident that had a significant impact on the writer's development or perspective.

Key features of an autobiographical incident essay:

- Focused on a particular incident or moment
- Personal and reflective in nature
- Contains vivid descriptions and emotional insights
- Demonstrates growth or change resulting from the incident

The Purpose of an Autobiographical Incident Essay

The main goal of this type of essay is to:

- Share a meaningful personal experience
- Convey lessons learned or insights gained
- Engage the reader with an authentic and relatable story

Sample Autobiographical Incident Essay Example

To better understand how to craft your own essay, let?s look at a sample autobiographical incident essay.

Title: The Day I Overcame My Fear of Public Speaking

It was a bright spring morning when I stood nervously in front of my class, clutching my notes tightly. The moment had finally arrived: I was to deliver my first speech in front of an audience. My heart pounded, palms sweaty, and I felt my knees trembling. I had always been afraid of speaking in public, a fear that had held me back for years. But that day marked a turning point.

As I began to speak, I remembered the countless times I had avoided situations that required me to speak up. I had skipped class presentations, avoided group discussions, and even declined leadership roles. My fear was rooted in the fear of embarrassment and judgment.

However, as I continued, I felt a sudden surge of confidence. I remembered my preparation and the support from my teacher and classmates. When I finished, the applause and encouraging words from my peers made me realize that I was capable of overcoming my fears.

That incident taught me the importance of facing challenges directly. It was a pivotal moment that boosted my self-esteem and motivated me to improve my communication skills. Since then, I have actively sought opportunities to speak publicly, knowing that each experience makes me stronger.

How to Write an Effective Autobiographical Incident Essay

Creating a compelling autobiographical incident essay requires careful planning, vivid storytelling, and reflection. Here are the steps to guide you through the process.

1. Choose a Significant Incident

Select an event that:

- Had a profound impact on you
- Was memorable and meaningful
- Offers room for reflection and growth

Tips for selecting an incident:

- Think about moments of achievement or failure
- Recall experiences that taught you valuable lessons
- Consider incidents that reveal your personality or values

2. Plan Your Essay

Outline your essay to organize your thoughts:

- Introduction: Set the scene and introduce the incident
- Body paragraphs: Describe the event in detail, including emotions and reactions
- Reflection: Explain what you learned and how you changed

3. Write with Vivid Descriptions

Use descriptive language to bring the incident to life:

- Sensory details (sights, sounds, smells)
- Emotional insights (feelings, thoughts)
- Specific actions and dialogues

4. Be Honest and Personal

Authenticity resonates with readers:

- Share genuine feelings and thoughts
- Avoid exaggerations or falsehoods
- Reflect on your true experiences

5. Conclude with Reflection

End your essay by:

- Summarizing the impact of the incident
- Highlighting lessons learned
- Showing how the experience influenced your future choices

Tips for Writing a Powerful Autobiographical Incident Essay

To ensure your essay stands out, consider these additional tips:

Use a Clear and Engaging Narrative Style

- Write in the first person to create intimacy
- Maintain a conversational tone
- Use active voice and varied sentence structures

Incorporate Dialogue and Internal Thoughts

- Include conversations to add realism
- Share your inner dialogue to reveal your mindset

Maintain Coherence and Flow

- Use transition words (e.g., then, afterwards, however)
- Keep a logical progression of events

Edit and Revise Thoroughly

- Check for grammatical accuracy
- Ensure clarity and conciseness
- Seek feedback from others

Common Mistakes to Avoid in Autobiographical Incident Essays

Stay mindful of these pitfalls:

- Being too vague or vague details: Provide specific descriptions to engage the reader.
- Overloading with unnecessary information: Focus on the incident and its significance.
- Ignoring reflection: Share insights and lessons learned.
- Using clichés or generic language: Make your story unique and authentic.
- Poor organization: Follow a logical sequence for better readability.

Additional Examples of Autobiographical Incident Essays

Exploring other examples can inspire your writing. Here are some common incidents people write about:

- A challenging experience at school or work
- A moment of failure that led to success
- An adventure or travel experience
- A personal achievement or milestone
- A time when you faced a difficult decision

Conclusion: Crafting Your Autobiographical Incident Essay

An autobiographical incident essay is a meaningful way to share a personal story that reflects your growth and character. By selecting a significant incident, describing it vividly, and reflecting on its impact, you can create an engaging and insightful narrative. Remember to write honestly, organize your thoughts clearly, and revise carefully. With practice and attention to detail, you can craft an autobiographical incident essay that leaves a lasting impression on your readers.

Start today by recalling a moment that changed you, and turn it into a compelling story that showcases your personality and life lessons. Your story matters, and sharing it can inspire others as well as help you understand yourself better.

Autobiographical Incident Essay Example: A Comprehensive Guide to Crafting a Memorable Narrative

When it comes to storytelling, autobiographical incident essay example stands out as a powerful way to explore personal experiences that have shaped who we are. These essays not only serve as a reflection of our lives but also allow readers to connect deeply with real-life moments. Whether you're a student working on a class assignment, a writer honing your craft, or simply someone interested in sharing a meaningful story, understanding how to craft an effective autobiographical incident essay is essential.

In this guide, we'll delve into what makes an autobiographical incident essay compelling, examine a detailed example, and provide practical tips to help you craft your own engaging narrative.

What Is an Autobiographical Incident Essay?

An autobiographical incident essay is a narrative piece that recounts a specific event or moment from the author's life. Unlike broader autobiographies that cover entire life spans, these essays focus intensely on a single incident, exploring its significance, impact, and the lessons learned.

Key features include:

- A clear, engaging opening that introduces the incident
- Vivid descriptions that bring the scene to life
- Reflection on the incident?s significance
- A conclusion that ties the experience to personal growth or understanding

Why Write an Autobiographical Incident Essay?

Writing this type of essay offers multiple benefits:

- Enhances storytelling skills
- Encourages reflection and self-awareness
- Provides insight into personal values and beliefs
- Builds empathy in readers through shared human experiences

Anatomy of a Strong Autobiographical Incident Essay

To craft a compelling essay, understanding its core components is crucial.

- Introduction

- Introduces the incident or setting
- Engages the reader?s curiosity
- Presents the main theme or lesson

- Body Paragraphs

- Describe the incident in detail
- Use sensory details to create vivid imagery
- Include dialogue or thoughts to add depth
- Explain the context and significance

- Reflection and Conclusion

- Reflect on what was learned
- Connect the incident to broader life lessons
- End with a thought-provoking statement or question

Example of an Autobiographical Incident Essay

Below is an example to illustrate how these elements come together in practice.

Title: The Day I Learned the Power of Perseverance

Introduction:

It was a chilly autumn afternoon when I first realized that perseverance could turn failure into success. I was sitting in the school library, staring at my math homework, feeling overwhelmed and ready to give up. Little did I know, that day would teach me a lesson that would stay with me forever.

Body:

Math had always been my weak spot, but that day I faced a particularly challenging set of problems. I remember the frustration bubbling up as I struggled to find solutions. I felt my confidence slipping away with each incorrect answer. My initial instinct was to abandon the homework altogether and tell myself I was just not good at math.

However, I remembered my teacher?s words: ?Persistence is key.? With a deep breath, I decided to tackle one problem at a time. I retraced my steps, looked up explanations, and asked a classmate for help. Slowly, the fog began lifting, and I started understanding the concepts better. By the end of the hour, I had completed the entire assignment.

Reflection:

That experience taught me that perseverance is vital. The difficulty I faced was not because I lacked ability but because I was about to give up. Embracing persistence transformed my approach to challenges, not just in math but in life. I learned that setbacks are opportunities for growth when approached with determination.

Conclusion:

Since that day, I?ve faced many obstacles, but I now see them as chances to learn rather than insurmountable barriers. The lesson of perseverance has become a cornerstone of my personal philosophy, reminding me that success often comes to those who refuse to give up.

Analyzing the Example

This example demonstrates several key qualities of an effective autobiographical incident essay:

- Vivid storytelling: Descriptive language ("chilly autumn afternoon," "frustration bubbling up") immerses the reader.
- Focused incident: The essay centers on one specific event?the struggle and eventual success with math homework.
- Personal reflection: The writer explains the lesson learned and its significance.
- Emotional connection: The narrative evokes feelings of frustration and triumph, making it relatable.

Tips for Writing Your Own Autobiographical Incident Essay

If you're inspired to craft your own story, consider these practical tips:

- Choose a Significant Incident

Select an event that had a meaningful impact on you. It doesn?t need to be extraordinary; even small moments can be powerful if they led to insight or change.

- Use Vivid Descriptions

Engage the reader by painting a clear picture. Include sensory details?sights, sounds, smells?that bring the scene to life.

- Show, Don?t Just Tell

Instead of simply stating what happened, illustrate it through actions, dialogue, and thoughts. This creates a more immersive experience.

- Focus on Reflection

Highlight what you learned. The essence of these essays lies in the personal growth that resulted from the incident.

- Keep a Clear Structure

Follow a logical flow: introduction, detailed body, reflection, and conclusion. This helps maintain clarity and keeps the reader engaged.

- Be Honest and Authentic

Authenticity resonates. Share your genuine feelings and reactions to make your story relatable.

Common Mistakes to Avoid

- Overloading with details: Keep descriptions relevant and concise.
- Lack of reflection: Don?t just narrate events; analyze their significance.
- Ignoring the audience: Write in a way that others can understand and relate to your experience.
- Poor organization: Use paragraphs effectively to separate ideas and maintain flow.

Final Thoughts

An autobiographical incident essay example serves as a blueprint for sharing meaningful personal stories that demonstrate growth, resilience, and self-awareness. By focusing on a specific moment, vividly describing it, and reflecting on its significance, you can create a compelling narrative that resonates with readers. Remember, the most impactful stories often come from honest introspection and genuine emotion. So, choose your incident wisely, craft your story with care, and let your experiences inspire others.

Embark on your writing journey today?your story is waiting to be told!

QuestionAnswer What is an autobiographical incident essay example? An autobiographical incident essay example is a written account that narrates a specific personal experience or event from the writer's life, illustrating how it impacted or shaped them. How can I choose a good autobiographical incident for my essay? Select an incident that was meaningful, memorable, and had a significant impact on your life. It should be specific enough to describe in detail and provide insights into your personality or growth. What are the key elements to include in an autobiographical incident essay? Key elements include a clear introduction to set the context, a vivid description of the incident, emotional reflections, and a conclusion that highlights the lessons learned or how it influenced you. Can you provide an example of an autobiographical incident essay? Yes, a common example is describing a time you faced a challenge, such as overcoming fear during a public speech, and explaining how it helped you gain confidence and resilience. What writing style is appropriate for an autobiographical incident essay? A personal, honest, and reflective style is

appropriate, often using first-person narration to convey your thoughts and feelings authentically. How long should an autobiographical incident essay be? Typically, it should be between 300 to 800 words, depending on the assignment requirements, allowing enough space to describe the incident and reflect on its significance. What are common mistakes to avoid in writing an autobiographical incident essay? Common mistakes include being too vague, neglecting emotional depth, overloading with unnecessary details, or failing to reflect on the incident's impact. How can I make my autobiographical incident essay more engaging? Use vivid descriptions, include sensory details, express genuine emotions, and reflect thoughtfully to connect with readers and make your story compelling.

Related keywords: autobiographical essay, personal experience writing, narrative essay example, storytelling techniques, memoir writing, descriptive essay tips, personal narrative structure, essay brainstorming ideas, reflective writing example, autobiographical incident ideas

Killer sat essay

killer sat essay is a phrase that strikes fear into the hearts of many high school students preparing for one of the most challenging components of the SAT exam. The SAT essay, although optional in some regions, remains a critical opportunity for students to showcase their analytical skills, writing prowess, and ability to craft a compelling argument under time constraints. Achieving a high score on the SAT essay can significantly enhance a student?s overall application profile, making the difference between an average and an outstanding college application. This article delves into strategies, tips, and insights to help you craft a killer SAT essay that not only meets the scoring criteria but also impresses admissions officers.

Understanding the SAT Essay: What You Need to Know

What Is the SAT Essay?

The SAT Essay is an optional component designed to assess a student?s ability to analyze a provided text and construct a coherent, evidence-based argument. Typically, students are given a passage?often a speech, editorial, or literary excerpt?and are asked to analyze how the author builds their argument, uses rhetorical devices, and persuades the audience.

Why Is the Essay Important?

Even though some colleges have moved away from requiring SAT essays, many still consider the score as part of the holistic review process. A strong essay can demonstrate critical thinking,

analytical reasoning, and writing skills?qualities highly valued in college.

The Scoring Criteria

The SAT essay is scored on a scale of 2?8 in three categories:

- Reading
- Analysis
- Writing

These scores are then combined to give a total score out of 24. A killer SAT essay excels across all three domains, showcasing depth of understanding, insightful analysis, and polished writing.

Key Elements of a Killer SAT Essay

1. Clear and Focused Thesis Statement

Your thesis should succinctly state your main argument or interpretation of the passage. It serves as the roadmap for your essay and should directly answer the prompt.

2. Strong Evidence and Examples

Use specific references from the passage to support your analysis. Quote or paraphrase key parts, explaining how they contribute to the author's argument and your overall analysis.

3. Logical and Coherent Structure

Organize your essay into clear paragraphs with topic sentences. Ensure each paragraph transitions smoothly to the next, maintaining a logical flow.

4. Analytical Depth

Don?t just summarize the passage?explain how the author uses rhetorical devices, tone, diction, and structure to persuade the audience.

5. Polished Language and Grammar

Use varied sentence structures and precise vocabulary. Proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling are essential to demonstrate mastery of writing skills.

Strategies to Write a Killer SAT Essay

Preparation Before the Test

Effective preparation involves familiarizing yourself with the test format, practicing with real prompts, and honing your analytical and writing skills.

- Practice analyzing various passages and identifying rhetorical devices
- Develop a set of go-to templates for introductions and conclusions
- Work on timed writing to simulate test conditions
- Read high-quality editorials and essays to strengthen your analytical skills

During the Test: Step-by-Step Approach

A systematic approach can help you maximize your score:

- **Read the Passage Carefully**: Spend 3?4 minutes understanding the main argument and rhetorical strategies.
- **Outline Your Essay**: Jot down your thesis statement and main points to stay organized.
- **Write a Clear Introduction**: Introduce the passage and state your thesis.
- **Develop Body Paragraphs**: Use each paragraph to analyze specific rhetorical devices or strategies, providing evidence and explanations.
- **Conclude Effectively**: Summarize your key points and restate your thesis in a new way.
- **Review and Edit**: If time permits, quickly check for grammatical errors and clarity.

Common Pitfalls to Avoid

To craft a killer essay, steer clear of these mistakes:

- Failing to address all parts of the prompt
- Providing superficial analysis without depth
- Overusing quotations without explanation
- Ignoring the author?s rhetorical strategies
- Writing overly vague or generic statements
- Neglecting organization and coherence

Sample Outline for a Killer SAT Essay

Creating a structured outline before you start writing can greatly improve clarity and coherence. Here?s an example:

Introduction

- Briefly introduce the passage and its main argument
- State your thesis about how the author constructs their persuasive strategy

Body Paragraph 1: Rhetorical Devices

- Identify a specific device (e.g., metaphor, repetition)
- Quote or paraphrase the passage
- Explain how this device enhances the author?s argument

Body Paragraph 2: Tone and Diction

- Analyze the tone (e.g., urgent, optimistic)
- Discuss word choices that contribute to this tone
- Connect tone to the overall purpose

Body Paragraph 3: Structural Elements

- Examine paragraph organization or sentence structure
- Describe how structure emphasizes key points
- Support with examples

Conclusion

- Recap your main points
- Restate the significance of the author?s rhetorical approach
- Reinforce your thesis

Additional Tips for Achieving a High Score

Practice with Real Prompts

Use official SAT practice tests and prompts from College Board to simulate real testing conditions.

Time Management

Allocate approximately 50 minutes for the essay, dividing time as follows:

- Read and analyze: 10 minutes
- Outline: 5 minutes
- Write: 25?30 minutes
- Review: 5?10 minutes

Seek Feedback

Share your practice essays with teachers or tutors to receive constructive critique and identify areas for improvement.

Refine Your Voice and Style

Aim for clarity, confidence, and variety in your language. A distinctive voice can make your essay stand out.

Conclusion: Mastering the Art of the Killer SAT Essay

While the phrase killer sat essay might evoke anxiety, approaching the task with preparation, strategy, and confidence can transform it into an opportunity to shine. Focus on understanding the prompt, developing a clear thesis, supporting your analysis with specific evidence, and organizing your ideas logically. Remember, a high-scoring SAT essay is not just about correct grammar or vocabulary but about demonstrating your analytical ability and critical thinking skills. With consistent practice and a strategic approach, you can craft a killer SAT essay that leaves a lasting impression on admissions committees and boosts your overall exam score.

Killer SAT Essay: Mastering the Art of a Standout Performance

killer sat essay?these words evoke a mix of anxiety, determination, and the desire to excel. The SAT essay, although optional on many recent tests, remains a critical component for students aiming for top-tier colleges. A compelling SAT essay can set a student apart, demonstrating analytical prowess, strong writing skills, and a nuanced understanding of complex texts. But what exactly does it take to craft a killer SAT essay? This article delves deep into strategies, tips, and insights to help students approach the SAT essay with confidence and craft a performance that stands out.

Understanding the SAT Essay: What Is It and Why Does It Matter?

The Purpose of the SAT Essay

The SAT essay is designed to evaluate three core skills:

- Reading comprehension: How well can you analyze a provided text?
- Analytical reasoning: Can you discern the author's techniques and intentions?
- Writing proficiency: Are your ideas organized, clear, and compelling?

While the College Board has made the essay optional, many competitive colleges still consider it when reviewing applications. A killer essay demonstrates your ability to think critically and communicate effectively?traits highly valued by admissions officers.

Format and Expectations

Typically, students have 50 minutes to complete the essay, which involves:

- Reading a provided passage (around 650-750 words)
- Developing a well-organized, analytical essay response
- Supporting your claims with evidence from the text

The essay is scored on three dimensions: Reading, Analysis, and Writing, each rated from 2 to 8 points.

Key Elements of a Killer SAT Essay

Achieving a high score on the SAT essay hinges on mastering several core components:

- Strong, Clear Thesis Statement

Your thesis should explicitly state your main argument about the author's techniques or purpose. It acts as the blueprint for your essay, guiding the reader through your analysis.

Tip: Avoid vague statements like "The author uses many techniques." Instead, specify what techniques and their effects, e.g., "The author employs vivid imagery and rhetorical questions to emphasize the protagonist's inner turmoil."

- Effective Use of Evidence

Support your analysis with direct quotations and specific references from the passage. Demonstrating close reading shows your ability to engage deeply with the text.

Tip: Incorporate at least 2-3 pieces of evidence per body paragraph to substantiate your claims.

- Analytical Depth

A killer essay doesn't just paraphrase the passage; it analyzes how the author?s choices influence the reader or serve the overall purpose.

Tip: Explain why the author uses a particular technique and how it affects the reader's understanding or emotional response.

- Cohesive and Organized Structure

Logical flow is crucial. Use clear topic sentences, transition words, and ordered paragraphs to make your essay easy to follow.

Tip: Outline your essay briefly before writing to ensure a coherent structure.

- Strong Conclusion

Summarize your main points and reinforce how your analysis supports your thesis. Leave the reader with a lasting impression of your critical insight.

Strategies for Writing a Killer SAT Essay

Achieving excellence requires deliberate practice and strategic planning. Here are actionable strategies:

Pre-Writing Preparation

- Familiarize Yourself with Common Text Types: The SAT often uses speeches, essays, or excerpts from famous works. Recognize common techniques like tone, diction, imagery, and rhetorical devices.

- Practice Active Reading: Annotate as you read?underline key phrases, note rhetorical devices, and jot down initial impressions.
- Create a Quick Outline: Decide your main analytical points early, so your essay remains focused.

During the Exam

- Manage Your Time: Allocate about 5-10 minutes for planning, 35-40 minutes for writing, and 5-10 minutes for revising.
- Start Strong: Craft a clear thesis statement in your introduction.
- Use Evidence Effectively: Embed quotations smoothly, followed by analysis.
- Stay Focused: Stick to analyzing the author's techniques rather than summarizing the passage.
- Revise and Edit: Correct grammatical errors and clarify awkward sentences in the final minutes.

Post-Writing Tips

- Read Your Essay Aloud: Hearing it can help catch errors and awkward phrasing.
- Ensure Clarity and Precision: Avoid vague language; be specific in your analysis.
- Check for Consistency: Make sure your essay supports your thesis throughout.

Common Pitfalls and How to Avoid Them

Even talented writers can stumble on test day. Here are typical mistakes and how to sidestep them:

- Summarizing Instead of Analyzing

Mistake: Rehashing the passage rather than analyzing techniques.

Solution: Focus your paragraphs on how the author uses specific devices and why they matter.

- Lack of Clear Thesis

Mistake: Vague or absent thesis statements.

Solution: Draft a precise thesis early and refer back to it to maintain focus.

- Insufficient Evidence

Mistake: Using only general statements or no quotations.

Solution: Incorporate direct evidence and explain its significance.

- Poor Organization

Mistake: Jumping between ideas without transitions.

Solution: Use topic sentences and transition words to guide the reader.

- Time Mismanagement

Mistake: Spending too long on introduction or one paragraph.

Solution: Stick to the planned outline and pace yourself.

Practice Makes Perfect: Building Your Killer Essay

Achieving a killer SAT essay isn't about innate talent; it's about preparation and practice. Here are some ways to hone your skills:

- Analyze Sample Essays: Review high-scoring essays to understand what makes them effective.
- Practice with Real Passages: Write essays within the 50-minute limit using authentic prompts.
- Seek Feedback: Have teachers or peers review your essays for constructive criticism.
- Focus on Technique: Instead of just writing, analyze how authors craft their messages.

Final Thoughts: The Key to a Killer SAT Essay

A killer SAT essay combines analytical insight, clear organization, and compelling writing. Remember that your goal is not just to summarize but to demonstrate your ability to dissect an author's techniques, understand their purpose, and articulate your insights effectively.

Success on the SAT essay requires strategic preparation, disciplined practice, and a confident approach during the exam. By mastering the core elements?thesis statement, evidence, analysis, and organization?you can transform your essay into a powerful piece that leaves a lasting impression on admissions committees.

In the pursuit of college admissions excellence, a well-crafted SAT essay can be your secret weapon. Approach it with seriousness, practice diligently, and aim to produce an essay that truly stands out as killer.

QuestionAnswer What are some effective strategies to craft a compelling SAT essay that can 'kill' the test? To craft a compelling SAT essay, focus on analyzing a provided text critically, develop a clear thesis, use specific evidence and examples, organize your ideas logically, and write with clarity and precision. Practice outlining your essay quickly to ensure a cohesive structure under timed conditions. How important is understanding the prompt when aiming to 'kill' the SAT essay? Understanding the prompt thoroughly is crucial because it guides your analysis and ensures your essay stays focused on addressing the specific task. Misinterpreting the prompt can lead to off-topic essays, which can significantly lower your score. What common mistakes should be avoided to 'kill' the SAT essay? Common mistakes include neglecting to analyze the author's argument, relying on vague or generic language, failing to organize ideas clearly, running out of time, and not providing enough concrete evidence. Avoid these to maximize your essay score. How can practicing with sample prompts help improve your SAT essay score? Practicing with sample prompts helps you become familiar with the test format, improves your ability to quickly plan and organize your essay, develops your analytical skills, and builds confidence?all essential for writing a high-scoring essay on test day. Is it better to focus on content or language skills when aiming to 'kill' the SAT essay? Both content and language skills are important. Strong content with a clear, insightful analysis paired with correct grammar, varied sentence structure, and precise vocabulary will make your essay stand out. Balancing both aspects is key to achieving a top score.

Related keywords: SAT essay tips, SAT writing strategies, SAT essay scoring, SAT essay examples, SAT essay prompts, improving SAT essay, SAT essay structure, SAT essay tips, scoring high on SAT essay, SAT essay practice

Read the full article online: Killer sat essay