

Teachers and College Board have much in common: we want students to own their future, and we want them to develop the knowledge and skills they need to access postsecondary education and career opportunities. The purpose of the Illinois SAT[®] Teacher Toolkit is to give you, the teachers, tools and resources to build skills in your classroom that lead to student success, both on the SAT and beyond high school.

The best way to get ready for the SAT is to engage in challenging coursework that focuses deeply on fewer topics and uses instructional best practices. When reviewing this Toolkit, you'll see much of what the SAT assesses is already in your lesson plans because the SAT is aligned to the Illinois Learning Standards.

This Toolkit will introduce you to instructional resources, share examples that use these resources, and spark ideas for incorporating SAT college and career readiness skills into your classroom instruction. The Toolkit contains samples and components of resources available online at collegereadiness.collegeboard.org.

The Toolkit includes the following resources:

1. **Analysis in Social Studies Guide:** document that explains the Analysis in History/Social Studies cross-test score.
2. **Analysis in History/Social Studies Sample Questions:** sample SAT questions for review and use in your classroom.
3. **Lesson Plan: Quantitative Texts:** one of sixteen lesson plans created by teachers for teachers that are focused on the SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section.
4. **SAT Essay Rubric:** rubric used by essay scorers to determine SAT Essay performance.
5. **Lesson Plan: Essay Introduction:** one of four lesson plans created by teachers for teachers that are focused on the SAT Essay.

Here's how to get the most out of these resources:

Step 1: Review the Analysis in Social Studies Guide in a department meeting. Talk with your colleagues about the skills/knowledge listed for each test that are related to social studies instruction. Discuss the following questions:

1. Are there any skills or knowledge that aren't included in your curriculum?
2. Which five skills will your students apply effectively on the SAT?
3. Which three skills will your students struggle with on the SAT?

Step 2: Review practice questions to see how skills are assessed on the SAT. This Toolkit includes two sample passages and associated questions from the Reading Test, one passage and associated questions from the Writing and Language Test, and several sample Math Test questions.

More practice questions are available at sat.org/practice. Besides the eight SAT practice tests, you can review answer explanations and scoring guides to clarify the skills being assessed.

Step 3: Review your school's score data in the K-12 Score Reporting Portal, available at k12reports.collegeboard.org. The perfect way to get started with these skills is to see where your students are strong and where they need improvement.

Review the Instructional Planning Report. Note average test scores, cross-test scores, and subscores, paying particular attention to the Analysis in History/Social Studies cross-test score. The Question Analysis Report shows you which questions contributed to the Analysis in History/Social Studies cross-test score and how your students performed on these questions. Determine whether they're having more difficulty with the Reading Test, Writing and Language Test, or Math Test questions in social studies contexts.

Step 4: Review sample lessons and strategies. Investigate Official SAT Practice Lesson Plans, available at sat.org/lessonplans, which use resources such as Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy® (satpractice.org) to foster a classroom experience that builds students' college and career readiness skills. Several lessons relate to social studies instruction. The Quantitative Texts Lesson Plan is included in this Toolkit. Several other Evidence-Based Reading and Writing lessons and Math lessons focus on data analysis and informational graphics that apply to social studies instruction. Other lessons develop essential reading skills to help students do better in social studies. Review Reading—Central Idea and Evidence (sat.org/evidenceplan) and Reading—Synthesis and Paired Passages (sat.org/synthesisplan) to get ideas for achieving strong reading skills.

This Toolkit includes the SAT Essay rubric and an Official SAT Practice Lesson Plan to introduce the Essay. (Three additional lesson plans can be found at sat.org.) The SAT Essay asks students to analyze a text, explain how an author builds an argument to persuade an audience, and support the explanation with evidence from the passage. It's a task that fits well in social studies instruction.

For more on the SAT Essay, the self-guided course (available at sat.org/module7) walks you through the essay prompt and offers an extra lesson plan. Each of these resources can provide valuable and time-saving tools to prepare students for SAT Essay analytic writing.

Step 5: Continue to measure student progress. You've already noted the current mean scores on the SAT Suite of Assessments. As you include passages and questions in your formative and summative assessments, track student progress. Watch for growth.

We hope the Illinois Teacher Toolkit inspires you to creatively incorporate SAT practice and skill development into your curriculum and instruction. These resources support teachers across all content areas and build skills students need to succeed. You're a key factor in the success of your students, and we'll work with you to make lifelong opportunity a possibility.