

# Hacking (through) Admissions

**SAT/ACT, College Essays, and more**



*presented by Paul Jury &*  
**PJ Test Prep**

*SAT/ACT Prep Classes, and Test/Academic Tutoring*

[www.pjtestprep.com](http://www.pjtestprep.com) | 310-529-7285 | [paul@pjtestprep.com](mailto:paul@pjtestprep.com)

## Step 1, relax...

In a Pew Study\* of 1,364 four-year U.S. colleges (aka almost all of them)...

- 17 schools admitted fewer than 10% of applicants. Harvard, Stanford, Yale, Northwestern, etc.
- Another 29 schools admitted between 10% and 20%. Georgetown, USC, UCLA, Berkeley, etc.
- These "Extremely Competitive" schools make up 3.4% of schools, and 4.1% of total student enrollment.
- On the other hand, more than 700 schools admitted 67% or more of their applicants. Virginia Tech, St. John's, Missouri, Quinnipiac, Arizona, George Mason, Ohio State, etc.

(\*Pre-pandemic)

### The "Elite" Eight

|                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| Kansas 93%       | Miami 33%     |
| Arkansas 77%     | Villanova 31% |
| Saint Peters 85% | UNC 25%       |
| Houston 63%      | Duke 7%       |

**YOU. ARE. GOING. TO. COLLEGE.**

(if you want:)

Don't be afraid to look outside California (there are 49 other states)

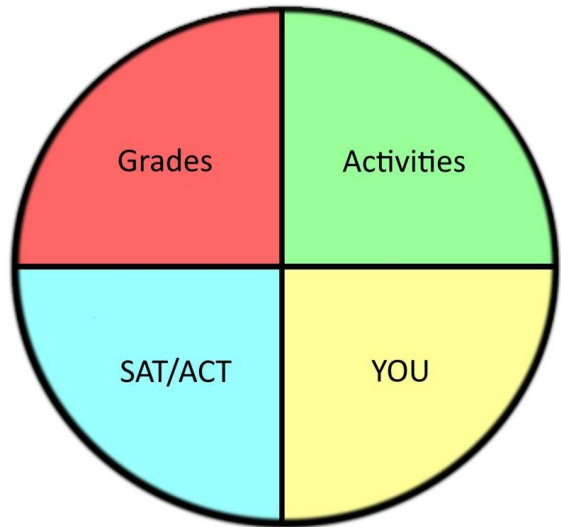
Why are UC (and some CSU) schools so competitive? 4 reasons.

Don't forget about financial aid!

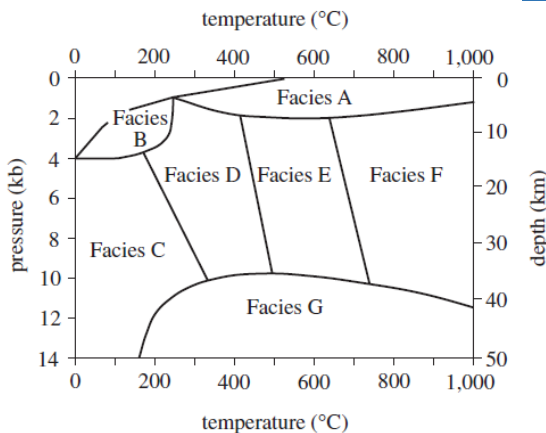
# CA or not to CA, what can I do to optimize my chances?

- Remember the 4 (main) things colleges care about:

- The independent research project?



## SAT/ACT



2. According to Figure 1, a Facies G rock will most likely form under which of the following pressure and temperature conditions?

|    | Pressure | Temperature |
|----|----------|-------------|
| F. | 3 kb     | 800°C       |
| G. | 5 kb     | 400°C       |
| H. | 8 kb     | 1,000°C     |
| J. | 11 kb    | 600°C       |

### Tips

- Always guess, but start with the easy ones
- Learn the few commonly tests concepts
- Learn the tricks!

### Should I test?

If it could help you. Probably at least worth a Practice Test... Almost all schools except UC/CA are at least test optional.

### Which test should I take?

(Short answer: maybe both)

**ACT**

(the "Fast but Simple" Test)

215 questions in  
3 hours  
(+ optional essay)

1/4th Math

**SAT**

(the "Slow but Tricky" Test)

154 questions in  
3 hours 5 minutes

1/2th Math

15

The expression  $\frac{5x-2}{x+3}$  is equivalent to which of the following?

A)  $\frac{5-2}{3}$

B)  $5 - \frac{2}{3}$

C)  $5 - \frac{2}{x+3}$

D)  $5 - \frac{17}{x+3}$

## ESSAYS



### 3 Approaches to giving them what they want (while still showing who YOU are):

#### Approach #1 – Be Impressive

*Any old kid can get good grades in college, graduate, and get a job. Counselors want to find bigger fish who will MAKE WAVES. Their jobs depend on it.*

- Suggest what big things you'll do on campus, or out in the world. "My First Play"

#### Approach #2 – Be Different

*Colleges don't just want butts in chairs. They want all types of students. Diversity.*

- Suggest what makes you different than all the other hard-working, good-grade-getting students out there. "The Twin Who Un-Twinned"

#### Approach #3 – Be Interesting

*Counselors have to read a lot of these essays. Make them remember you.*

- Use stories, detailed examples... - Be funny, touching, dramatic, whatever fits your topic, but don't use a gimmick that isn't you. "The Basement"

### Common App vs. UC Essays

("The Ninja" Essay vs. "The Mock Trial President" Essay)

#### The "Combo Essay"

- "The Swimming Doctor"
- "The Wrestler with Breakable Feet"
- "The Drum Essay"

## Upcoming Events & Classes!

**Student Essay Brainstorming Workshop**  
**@ RUHS!**  
**4/5 – Lunch (Nest)**

### Other offsite Free SAT & ACT Practice Tests + Essay Seminars

#### **Free Zoom SAT/ACT Practice Test + Seminar!**

Students take an ACT or SAT practice test...

**Test: 10am~1:00pm**

...and students and/or parents return after a short break to get the results, learn test strategy tips, and find out how to maximize scores!

**Seminar: 2-3pm**

Upcoming Dates:

**Sunday, April 10**

Sat, Jul 9 (Test; Sun, July 10 Seminar)

Sat, Aug 13 (Test; 8/14 11:30am Seminar)

#### **Free College Essay Workshop**

**Receive tips and strategies on:**

- What admissions counselors are looking for
- Coming up with stand-out ideas
- Executing and polishing a solid essay

Upcoming Dates:

**Tues. June 28 - 6:30pm – Zoom**

**Sun, Aug 14 - 10am - Zoom+Hermosa**

**RSVP** at [www.pjtestprep.com/rsvp](http://www.pjtestprep.com/rsvp) - **Spots are limited!**

### Class Options

#### SAT/ACT FULL COURSES

(see pages 6-8)

**\$495** (Early bird price)

#### (P)SAT/ACT CRASH COURSES

(see pages 6-8)

**\$195**

#### College Essay Class/Program

(Knock out the **Common App Essay** + all 4 UC Insight Essay!)

(see pages 5 and 9)

**\$495** (Early bird price)

### Tutoring Options (Zoom & In-Person)

PJ Test Prep offers high-quality private tutoring in nearly every academic subject:

**MATH** (Algebra through A.P. Calc.)

**SCIENCE** (A.P. Bio, Chem, Physics, etc.)

**ENGLISH/WRITING**

**ORGANIZATION & STUDY**

**SKILLS**

Rates and references available upon request

**Ask about small-group rates!**



# PJ Test Prep

## *College Essay Help Options*

### **Essay Class (summers only)**

**\$495** (early bird price)

A 7-week, live Zoom class that meets weekly and includes several rounds of peer review and 1-on-1 meetings with the instructor, plus draft review and commentary to move students through the essay process from start to finish.

See [www.pjtestprep.com](http://www.pjtestprep.com) for summer schedules

*Best for students who are early in the essay process and would like guidance through all 4 UC PIQ essays and their Common App/Coalition main essay.*

### **Video + Zoom Consulting Full Essay Program**

**\$495** (early bird price)

A 6-week (or faster if accelerated) video + 1:1 Zoom program that uses recorded coaching videos in conjunction with live meetings and multiple rounds of individual essay review and commentary to move students through the essay process from start to finish.

Includes: ● our *Completing your College App Essay* video program, ● two 30-minute 1-on-1 Zoom meetings, ● 2 rounds on audio notes on all 5 essays (4 UCs Insight Essays + 1 longer Common App or Coalition Essay), ● 1 round of Google Docs or Word edits and ● 20% off further essay tutoring hours

*Best for students who would like guidance through all 4 UC PIQ essays and their Common App/Coalition main essay but would like more flexibility than the Essay Class (above).*

### **A la Carte Essay consulting**

**Rates vary**

*Best for students who are partly/mostly done with their essays, and/or just need specialized coaching and review*

All programs strive to help students conceive and finish standout college essays, as well as become better writers.

*Paul Jury is a graduate of Northwestern University's Creative Writing for the Media Program, author of "States of Confusion," writer for TV shows on A&E, Vh1 and Disney, and founder of PJ Test Prep and Jury Academics. He has been coaching admissions essays for over a decade.*

[www.pjtestprep.com](http://www.pjtestprep.com) for more info, or  
[paul@pjtestprep.com](mailto:paul@pjtestprep.com) or (310) 529-7285 for question or to get started



# PJ Test Prep

## Schedule for Spring 2022 SAT & ACT Classes

Schedule subject to change: see the most recent version and sign up at [www.pjtestprep.com](http://www.pjtestprep.com).

### LOCATIONS:

**Hermosa** = Holiday Inn Express Hermosa (125 Pac. Coast Hwy, Hermosa Beach)

**Torrance** = Courtyard LA Torrance/Palos Verdes (2633 Sepulveda Blvd, Torrance)

**ZOOM** = Classes are conducted via Zoom, though we also try to provide in-person options when available, especially for Practice Tests.

## Full Courses for the May 7<sup>th</sup> SAT

| May SAT In-Person Full Course<br><b>2205SAT-FullHermosa - \$495</b><br>Location: <b>Hermosa</b> - Instructor: <b>Paul Jury</b> |             |             | May SAT Zoom Full Course<br><b>2205SAT-FullZoom - \$495</b><br>Location: <b>Zoom</b> - Instructor: <b>Paul Jury</b> |             |             |
|--|-------------|-------------|---|-------------|-------------|
| Practice Test 1*   | Sun, Mar 13 | 10am-1:10pm | Practice Test 1   | Sun, Mar 13 | 10am-1:10pm |
| Class 1  | Sat, Mar 19 | 2:30-5pm    | Class 1   | Sat, Mar 19 | 2:30-5pm    |
| Class 2  | Sat, Mar 26 | 2:30-5pm    | Class 2   | Sat, Mar 26 | 2:30-5pm    |
| Practice Test 2  | Sun, Mar 27 | 10am-1:10pm | Practice Test 2   | Sun, Mar 27 | 10am-1:10pm |
| Class 3  | Sat, Apr 2  | 2:30-5pm    | Class 3   | Sat, Apr 2  | 2:30-5pm    |
| Class 4  | Sat, Apr 9  | 2:30-5pm    | Class 4   | Sat, Apr 9  | 2:30-5pm    |
| Class 5  | Sat, Apr 16 | 2:30-5pm    | Class 5   | Sat, Apr 16 | 2:30-5pm    |
| Practice Test 3  | Sat, Apr 23 | 10am-1:10pm | Practice Test 3   | Sat, Apr 23 | 10am-1:10pm |
| Class 6  | Sun, Apr 24 | 2:30-5pm    | Class 6   | Sun, Apr 24 | 2:30-5pm    |
| Class 7  | Sat, Apr 30 | 2:30-5pm    | Class 7   | Sat, Apr 30 | 2:30-5pm    |

*\*Practice Test 1 is at Torrance location*

## Full Courses for the June 4<sup>th</sup> SAT

| June SAT In-Person Full Course<br><b>2206SAT-FullHermosa - \$495</b><br>Location: <b>Hermosa</b> - Instructor: <b>Paul Jury</b> |              |             | June SAT Zoom Full Course<br><b>2206SAT-FullZoom - \$495</b><br>Location: <b>Zoom</b> - Instructor: <b>Paul Jury</b> |              |             |
|---|--------------|-------------|--|--------------|-------------|
| Practice Test 1   | Sat, Apr 16  | 10am-1:10pm | Practice Test 1  | Sat, Apr 16  | 10am-1:10pm |
| Class 1   | Mon, Apr 18* | 6-8:30pm    | Class 1  | Mon, Apr 18* | 6-8:30pm    |
| Class 2   | Sun, Apr 24  | 11:30am-2pm | Class 2  | Sun, Apr 24  | 11:30am-2pm |
| Practice Test 2   | Sat, Apr 30  | 10am-1:10pm | Practice Test 2  | Sat, Apr 30  | 10am-1:10pm |
| Class 3   | Sun, May 1   | 2:30-5pm    | Class 3  | Sun, May 1   | 2:30-5pm    |
| Class 4   | Sat, May 7** | 11:30am-2pm | Class 4  | Sat, May 7** | 11:30am-2pm |
| Class 5   | Sun, May 15  | 11:30am-2pm | Class 5  | Sun, May 15  | 11:30am-2pm |
| Practice Test 3   | Sat, May 21  | 10am-1:10pm | Practice Test 3  | Sat, May 21  | 10am-1:10pm |
| Class 6   | Sun, May 22  | 11:30am-2pm | Class 6  | Sun, May 22  | 11:30am-2pm |
| Class 7   | Sun, May 29  | 11:30am-2pm | Class 7  | Sun, May 29  | 11:30am-2pm |

*\*Easter Weekend - \*\*Mother's Day Weekend*

Contact: Director Paul Jury - [paul@pjtestprep.com](mailto:paul@pjtestprep.com) - (310) 529-7285

You must sign up for the actual SAT/ACT separately, at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) & [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)





# PJ Test Prep

## Schedule for Spring 2022 SAT & ACT Classes

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### LOCATIONS:

**Hermosa** = Holiday Inn Express Hermosa (125 Pac. Coast Hwy, Hermosa Beach). With our Hermosa classes, we attempt to have as many in-person events as possible, though occasionally one or two classes need to be conducted via Zoom. (Zoom is always another option for students who can't attend physically to a given class.)

**ZOOM** = Classes are conducted via Zoom, though we also try to provide in-person options when available, especially for Practice Tests.

## Crash Courses for the June 4<sup>th</sup> SAT

|  |             |             |   |             |             |
|--|-------------|-------------|---|-------------|-------------|
| <b>June SAT In-Person Crash Course</b><br><b><u>2206SAT-CrashHermosa - \$195</u></b><br><i>Location: Hermosa - Instructor: Paul Jury</i> |             |             | <b>June SAT Zoom Crash Course</b><br><b><u>2206SAT-CrashZoom - \$195</u></b><br><i>Location: Zoom - Instructor: Paul Jury</i> |             |             |
| Class 1  | Sun, May 22 | 5:15-7:45pm | Class 1   | Sun, May 22 | 5:15-7:45pm |
| Practice Test  | Sat, May 28 | 10am-1:10pm | Practice Test   | Sat, May 28 | 10am-1:10pm |
| Class 2  | Sun, May 29 | 5:15-7:45pm | Class 2   | Sun, May 29 | 5:15-7:45pm |

## Full Courses for the June 11<sup>th</sup> ACT

|  |             |             |   |             |             |
|--|-------------|-------------|---|-------------|-------------|
| <b>June ACT In-Person Full Course</b><br><b><u>2206ACT-FullHermosa - \$495</u></b><br><i>Location: Hermosa - Instructor: Paul Jury</i> |             |             | <b>June ACT Zoom Full Course</b><br><b><u>2206ACT-FullZoom - \$495</u></b><br><i>Location: Zoom - Instructor: Paul Jury</i> |             |             |
| Practice Test 1  | Sat, Apr 16 | 10am-2pm    | Practice Test 1   | Sat, Apr 16 | 10am-2pm    |
| Class 1  | Sun, Apr 24 | 5:15-7:45pm | Class 1   | Sun, Apr 24 | 5:15-7:45pm |
| Class 2  | Sat, Apr 30 | 5:15-7:45pm | Class 2   | Sat, Apr 30 | 5:15-7:45pm |
| Practice Test 2  | Sun, May 1  | 10am-2pm    | Practice Test 2   | Sun, May 1  | 10am-2pm    |
| Class 3  | Sat, May 7* | 2:30-5pm    | Class 3   | Sat, May 7* | 2:30-5pm    |
| Class 4  | Sun, May 15 | 2:30-5pm    | Class 4   | Sun, May 15 | 2:30-5pm    |
| Class 5  | Sun, May 22 | 2:30-5pm    | Class 5   | Sun, May 22 | 2:30-5pm    |
| Practice Test 3  | Sat, May 28 | 10am-2pm    | Practice Test 3   | Sat, May 28 | 10am-2pm    |
| Class 6  | Sun, May 29 | 2:30-5pm    | Class 6   | Sun, May 29 | 2:30-5pm    |
| Class 7  | Sun, Jun 5  | 2:30-5pm    | Class 7   | Sun, Jun 5  | 2:30-5pm    |

*\*Mother's Day Weekend*

Contact: Director Paul Jury - [paul@pjtestprep.com](mailto:paul@pjtestprep.com) - (310) 529-7285

You must sign up for the actual SAT/ACT separately, at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) & [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)



# PJ Test Prep

## Schedule for Summer 2022 SAT & ACT Classes

Schedule subject to change: see the most recent version and sign up at [www.pjtestprep.com](http://www.pjtestprep.com).

### LOCATIONS:

**Hermosa** = Holiday Inn Express Hermosa (125 Pac. Coast Hwy, Hermosa Beach). With our Hermosa classes, we attempt to have as many in-person events as possible, though occasionally one or two classes need to be conducted via Zoom. (Zoom is always another option for students who can't attend physically to a given class.)

**ZOOM** = Classes are conducted via Zoom, though we also try to provide in-person options when available, especially for Practice Tests.

### Course for August 27<sup>th</sup> SAT

| <b>Sunday SAT In-Person Full Course</b><br><b>2208SAT-FullHermosa - \$495</b><br><i>Location: Hermosa - Instructor: Paul Jury</i> |                      |                 | <b>Sunday SAT Zoom Full Course</b><br><b>2208SAT-FullHermosa - \$495</b><br><i>Location: Zoom - Instructor: Paul Jury</i> |                      |                 |
|---|----------------------|-----------------|---|----------------------|-----------------|
| Practice Test 1   | Sat, July 9          | 10am-1:10pm     | Practice Test 1   | Sat, July 9          | 10am-1:10pm     |
| Class 1   | Sun, July 17         | 1-3:30pm        | Class 1   | Sun, July 17         | 1-3:30pm        |
| Class 2   | <b>Tues, July 19</b> | <b>6:30-9pm</b> | Class 2   | <b>Tues, July 19</b> | <b>6:30-9pm</b> |
| Practice Test 2   | Sat, July 23         | 10am-1:10pm     | Practice Test 2   | Sat, July 23         | 10am-1:10pm     |
| Class 3   | Sun, July 24         | 1-3:30pm        | Class 3   | Sun, July 24         | 1-3:30pm        |
| Class 4   | Sun, Jul 31          | 1-3:30pm        | Class 4   | Sun, Jul 31          | 1-3:30pm        |
| Class 5*  | Sun, Aug 7           | 1-3:30pm        | Class 5   | Sun, Aug 7           | 1-3:30pm        |
| Practice Test 3   | Sat, Aug 13          | 10am-1:10pm     | Practice Test 3   | Sat, Aug 13          | 10am-1:10pm     |
| Class 6   | Sun, Aug 14          | 1-3:30pm        | Class 6   | Sun, Aug 14          | 1-3:30pm        |
| Class 7   | Sun, Aug 21          | 1-3:30pm        | Class 7   | Sun, Aug 21          | 1-3:30pm        |

*\*Class 5 will be Zoom only*

### Courses for the September 10th ACT

| <b>Sept ACT In-Person Full Course</b><br><b>2209ACT-FullHermosa - \$495</b><br><i>Location: Hermosa - Instructor: Paul Jury</i> |              |            | <b>Sept ACT Zoom Full Course</b><br><b>2209ACT-FullZoom - \$495</b><br><i>Location: Zoom - Instructor: Paul Jury</i> |              |            |
|---|--------------|------------|--|--------------|------------|
| Practice Test 1   | Sat, July 16 | 10am-2pm   | Practice Test 1  | Sat, July 16 | 10am-2pm   |
| Class 1   | Sun, July 17 | 4pm-6:30pm | Class 1  | Sun, July 17 | 4pm-6:30pm |
| Class 2   | Sun, July 24 | 4pm-6:30pm | Class 2  | Sun, July 24 | 4pm-6:30pm |
| Practice Test 2   | Sat, July 30 | 10am-2pm   | Practice Test 2  | Sat, July 30 | 10am-2pm   |
| Class 3   | Sun, July 31 | 4pm-6:30pm | Class 3  | Sun, July 31 | 4pm-6:30pm |
| Class 4*  | Sun, Aug 7   | 4pm-6:30pm | Class 4  | Sun, Aug 7   | 4pm-6:30pm |
| Class 5   | Sun, Aug 14  | 4pm-6:30pm | Class 5  | Sun, Aug 14  | 4pm-6:30pm |
| Practice Test 3   | Sat, Aug 20  | 10am-2pm   | Practice Test 3  | Sat, Aug 20  | 10am-2pm   |
| Class 6   | Sun, Aug 21  | 4pm-6:30pm | Class 6  | Sun, Aug 21  | 4pm-6:30pm |
| Class 7   | Sun, Aug 28  | 4pm-6:30pm | Class 7  | Sun, Aug 28  | 4pm-6:30pm |

*\*Class 4 will be Zoom only*





# PJ Test Prep

## College Essay/Personal Statement Workshop

This class is designed to help college-bound students become better writers, both in completing their college application essays, as well as for college-level writing down the line.

### Students will:

- Learn how to write effective **college application essays** and personal statements, and **leave class with multiple polished essays** they can use for their UC, Common App and other applications.
- Improve on timed Standardized Test essays, like those on the **ACT** and **AP Exams**.
- **Get better grades** on high school essays, and learn how to **write college level essays**, like the out-of-class papers and in-class exams they'll see at competitive 4-year colleges.
- Become more **creative** writers
- Get individualized feedback through all steps of all essays

| <i><b>Summer College Essay/<br/>Personal Statement Workshop – \$495 Early Bird Price!</b></i> |              |                         |
|---|--------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Location: <b>Hermosa (Holiday Inn Express, 125 PCH) + Zoom</b></i>                         |              |                         |
| <i>Instructor: <b>Paul Jury</b></i>   |              |                         |
| Class (In person or Zoom)   | Sun, July 17 | 7-9pm*                  |
| Class/1:1 Meetings  | Wed, July 20 | 7-9pm*                  |
| Class (In person or Zoom)   | Sun, July 24 | 7-9pm*                  |
| Class/1:1 Meetings  | Wed, July 27 | 7-9pm*                  |
| Class (In person or Zoom)   | Sun, July 31 | 7-9pm*                  |
| Class/1:1 Meetings  | Wed, Aug 3   | 7-9pm*                  |
| Class (Zoom)  | Sun, Aug 7   | 7-9pm*                  |
| Class/1:1 Meetings  | Wed, Aug 10  | 7-9pm*                  |
| Class (In person or Zoom)   | Sun, Aug 14  | 7-9pm*                  |
| Class/1:1 Meetings  | Wed, Aug 17  | 7-9pm*                  |
| Nov 30  |              | UC Application Deadline |

\*Given the inherent variance in how long different students need to complete their College Essays, timing and location of Essay classes will be flexible, and may include individual meetings, video chat sessions, and work periods.

Class will be instructed by **Paul Jury**, graduate of Northwestern University’s Creative Writing for the Media Program, Author of “States of Confusion,” Writer for TV shows on A&E, Vh1 and Discovery Channel, and founder of PJ Test Prep and Jury Academics.

[www.pjtestprep.com](http://www.pjtestprep.com) to sign up  
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