

Optimizing College Admissions - Fall 2021 Edition!

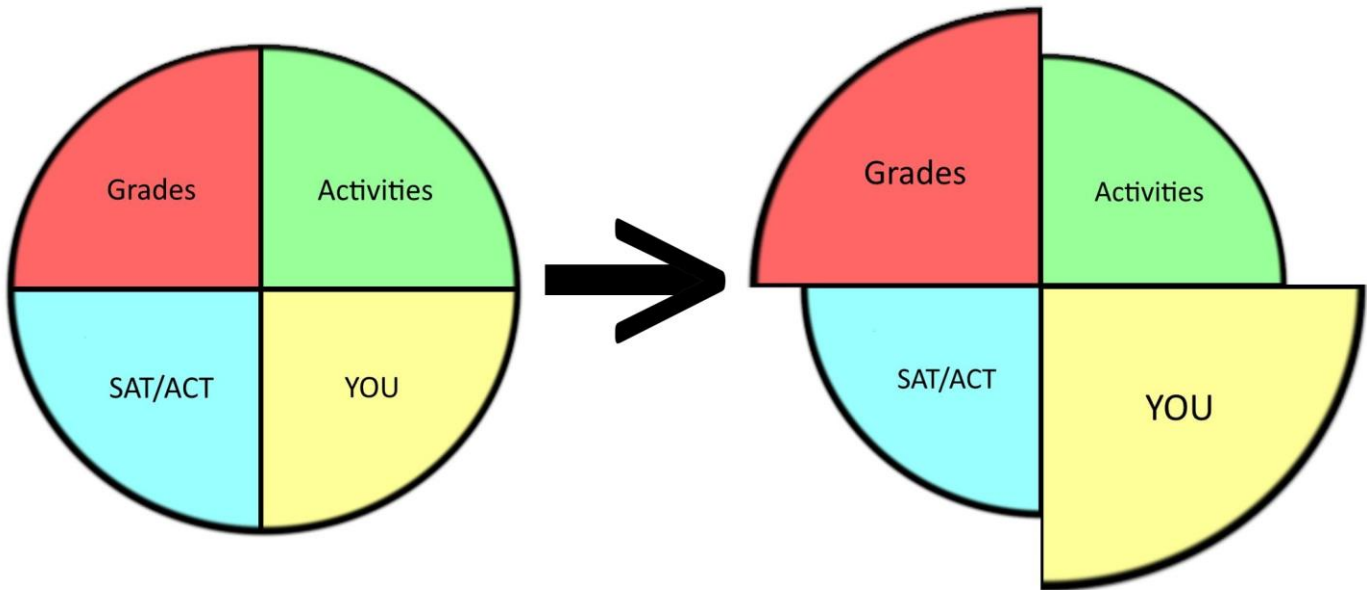


presented by Paul Jury &

PJ Test Prep

SAT/ACT Prep Classes, and Test/Academic Tutoring

www.pjtestprep.com, 310-529-7285 or paul@pjtestprep.com



These days... harder admission at large and selective schools
(Though easier admission at smaller and less selective schools)

So what can I do to stand out and improve my chances?

1) Grades

- Rigorous coursework (esp. in your potential areas of study)
- Less common class choices (College courses, 2 science classes at once, etc)

2) Activities

- Quality over quantity (Starting a club > being in 3 clubs)
- Think outside the classroom (anything NOT directly through your school?)
- Initiative, leadership, etc.

3) SAT/ACTs

- More than 50% of schools remain Test Optional/Test Blind. Less than 50% of students submitted scores last year.
- Students with test scores got accepted more often. Esp. STEM and Business - the math score confirmatory evidence mattered here.
- Some confounding variables here (1500s submitted, 1100s not submitted)...
- ... but it's at least worth figuring out if you should take and/or submit SAT/ACT scores

Why take the test(s)?

- "Test Optional" → **More competitive**, because more students apply. Without scores, more emphasis on other things.
- Can help **imperfect grades**
- Virtually all schools **Superscore** SAT, and some do the same for the ACT. Most schools just consider the highest scores you submit, though some look at all of them.
- You can **cancel** your ACT scores after you get them; SAT can only be cancelled for like 5 days after your test (so before your scores come out)
- Can't hurt! "Differential Score Reporting" = **Can send score to SOME schools**, not others
- Basically, take **Practice Tests** to see where you might be at, and take/send if **you're at or above the median.**

Which test should I take?

<u>ACT</u> (the "Fast but Simple" Test)	<u>SAT</u> (the "Slow but Tricky" Test)
215 questions in 3 hours (+ optional essay)	154 questions in 3 hours 5 minutes (no optional essay after June '21)
1/4th Math	1/2th Math

Many students try both tests - colleges will use your higher score!

When to test? Recommended SCHEDULE (in non-Biblical-plague years)

	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer
Fresh/Soph Years	Take advanced classes when possible, striving for A's and B's 10 th grade, take the PSAT or PACT if possible in the fall, and think about what you're looking for in a college			
Junior Year	Take the PSAT again (offered at your school in Oct.) Take AP classes if possible	Prep for the SAT/ACT	Take the SAT/ACT Start college visits Take AP Tests	Summer college visits Write your College Essays Further Test Prep if needed
Senior Year	College visits SAT/ACT retakes, if needed Applications due	Applications due	<i>Make your choice!</i> Take AP exams	Relax... you've worked hard to get where you're going!

Take the December ACT? So you can see, and/or cancel your score if you don't like it?

Also, you can improve!

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

Free Zoom* SAT/ACT Practice Test + Seminar!

Students take an ACT or SAT practice test...

Test: 10am-2:10pm

...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: 2:45pm-4pm

*We'll add in-person options as it's safe! See [this webpage for updates!](#)



Presented by PJ Test Prep

Upcoming Dates:

Saturday, Aug 21	Sunday, Oct 3
Sunday, Sept 12	Sunday, Dec 12

LOGISTICS

We'll email the Zoom link and test materials/instructions to all registrants during the week before each event, then proctor the tests live, simulating as close to a real (at-home) SAT/ACT as possible. Test results are emailed during the break before the Seminar.

RSVP at www.pjtestprep.com/rsvp

Questions? pj@pjtestprep.com or 310-529-7285

Free College Essay & Personal Statement Seminar

Receive tips and strategies on:

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



Presented by PJ Test Prep

Upcoming Dates:

Via Zoom, on...

Saturday, August 21
4:30-5:30pm

LOGISTICS

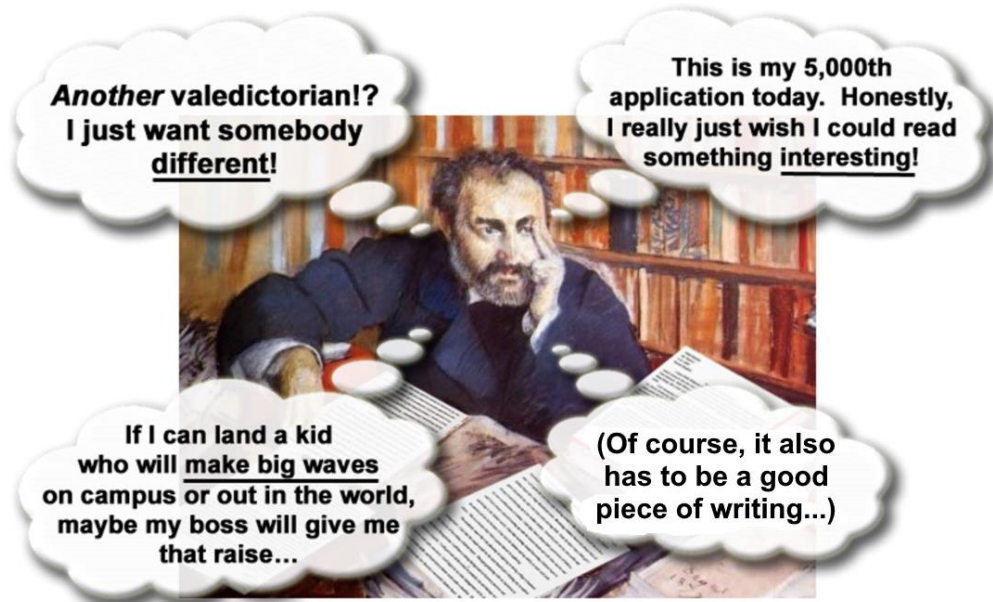
We'll email the Zoom link and info to all registrants during the week before each event.

RSVP at www.pjtestprep.com/rsvp

Spots are limited!

Questions? pj@pjtestprep.com or 310-529-7285

4) Essays



Approach #1 – Be Impressive (aka something most people haven't done)

Approach #2 – Be Different (what makes you different from your friends?)

Approach #3 – Be Interesting (what essay haven't they seen before?)

Now, 6 things NOT to write about...

- Stuff that's **already been said** elsewhere on your application.
- Way off-topic stuff. Don't just answer the **prompt**, but don't ignore it either.
- Somebody **else** (unless that's the prompt, but regardless it should really be about you).
- “**Smoke words**” (“My commitment and passion for goals”) and other **generic stuff anybody could say** (“My work ethic”). Readers **HATE** vague or obvious stuff and **LOVE** description and uniqueness (“Steve Madden boots in cow pies”).
- Overly **cliché topics** (my sport, my mental illness/tragedy, my trip, my bland activity...)
- A gimmick that **isn't you**. Give what they want, but not at the expense of who you are.
- #7 Covid? Depends...

Make your list, then a plan. UCs → Common App → Supps/Scholarships. And get help!

Application Essay Brainstorm Sheet

- What will be the most notable thing you do in college?
- What will be the most notable thing you do in your career?
- What are you really good at?
 - o How did you get good at it?
 - o What was the moment you realized you were good?
 - o When did you get a chance to show it?
 - o How could this ability help you in college or life?
- Do you have any interesting stories?
 - o Funny?
 - o Amazing?
 - o Touching?
- What's something really random about you?
- What are you really BAD at?
- What's the biggest challenge you've had to overcome?
 - o Did you overcome it? (It's OK if you didn't)
 - o Either way, what did you learn?
- What is your biggest regret?
- Have you ever found yourself thrown into a new situation?
- Have you ever not fitting in somewhere?
- Have you ever taken any interesting trips? Any good stories? What did you learn about the world/other people/yourself?
- What has been your most meaningful extra-curricular activity, even (especially?) if it's not the most resume-worthy?
- What adults in your life/in society do you most admire?
 - o Why?

5) What Else Can I Do?

Early Action/Early Decision. Pandemic saw Early Decision acceptance % outpace Regular Decision acceptance % even more than usual... though it depends on the school. Don't know of anywhere Regular Decision was BETTER though.

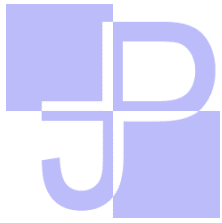
Demonstrated Interest

X-Factors: Under-represented students? Students with hardships? Full-pay students?

Specific, anecdotal **references** from your teachers?

A **theme** to your app? "The travelling architect"

The independent research **project**?



PJ Test Prep

SAT/ACT Prep & Academic Tutoring
(via Zoom, Socially-Distanced Backyard Tutoring, and regular tutoring as the pandemic wanes)

SAT/ACT Prep

PJ Test Prep offers classes and **individual/small-group tutoring** for all SAT & ACT subjects, as well as prep for SAT 2 Subject Tests, PSAT/PLAN tests, and A.P. exams.

SAT/ACT FULL COURSES

- Seven 2.5-hour sessions plus three scored practice tests, covering everything you need to know to ace the **SAT** or **ACT**.
- Thorough, time-tested material that can raise a student's score **huge amounts**.

\$495

(P)SAT/ACT CRASH COURSES

- Two 2.5 hour sessions plus one full-length practice test.
- A quick and cheap way to get a great review for the **SAT** or **ACT**, or get a taste of the **PSAT**.

\$195

Academic Tutoring

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

MATH (Grade school math through A.P. Calculus)

SCIENCE (Natural science through A.P. Chemistry and Physics)

ENGLISH/COLLEGE ESSAY COACHING

READING Comprehension/Critical Reading

General Academic Help & Organizational/**STUDY SKILLS**

Rates and references available upon request

Ask about small-group rates!



PJ Test Prep

Schedule for Fall/Winter 2021

Full Courses for the December 4th SAT

Sunday In-Person Full Course for the <u>2112SAT-FullHermosa - \$495</u> (Contact us about the \$295 option to take only the first 5 events for the Nov SAT) Location: <i>Hermosa*</i> - Instructor: TBA			Sunday Zoom Full Course for the <u>2112SAT-FullHermosa - \$495</u> (Contact us about the \$295 option to take only the first 5 events for the Nov SAT) Location: <i>Zoom</i> - Instructor: TBA		
Practice Test 1	Sat, Oct 16	10am-1pm	Practice Test 1*	Sat, Oct 16	10am-1pm
Class 1	Sun, Oct 17	2-4:30pm	Class 1	Sun, Oct 17	2-4:30pm
Class 2	Sun, Oct 24	2-4:30pm	Class 2	Sun, Oct 24	2-4:30pm
Practice Test 2	Sat, Oct 30	10am-1pm	Practice Test 2*	Sat, Oct 30	10am-1pm
Class 3	Sun, Oct 31	2-4:30pm	Class 3	Sun, Oct 31	2-4:30pm
Class 4	Sun, Nov 7	2-4:30pm	Class 4	Sun, Nov 7	2-4:30pm
Class 5	Sun, Nov 14	2-4:30pm	Class 5	Sun, Nov 14	2-4:30pm
Practice Test 3	Sat, Nov 20	10am-1pm	Practice Test 3*	Sat, Nov 20	10am-1pm
Class 6	Sun, Nov 21	2-4:30pm	Class 6	Sun, Nov 21	2-4:30pm
Class 7	Sun, Nov 28	2-4:30pm	Class 7	Sun, Nov 28	2-4:30pm
*All In-Person classes will be safe and socially distanced, as per the current CDC & LA Guidelines			*Practice Test days may have in-person options. TBA.		

Full Courses for the December 11th ACT

Sunday In-Person Full Course for the <u>2112ACT-FullHermosa - \$495</u> Location: <i>Hermosa*</i> - Instructor: TBA			Sunday Zoom Full Course for the <u>2112ACT-FullHermosa - \$495</u> Location: <i>Zoom</i> - Instructor: TBA		
Practice Test 1	Sat, Oct 16	10am-2pm	Practice Test 1*	Sat, Oct 16	10am-2pm
Class 1	Sun, Oct 17	4:45-7:15pm	Class 1	Sun, Oct 17	4:45-7:15pm
Class 2	Sun, Oct 24	4:45-7:15pm	Class 2	Sun, Oct 24	4:45-7:15pm
Practice Test 2	Sat, Oct 30	10am-2pm	Practice Test 2*	Sat, Oct 30	10am-2pm
Class 3	Sun, Oct 31	11am-1:30**	Class 3	Sun, Oct 31	11am-1:30**
Class 4	Sun, Nov 7	4:45-7:15pm	Class 4	Sun, Nov 7	4:45-7:15pm
Class 5	Sun, Nov 14	4:45-7:15pm	Class 5	Sun, Nov 14	4:45-7:15pm
Practice Test 3	Sat, Nov 20	10am-2pm	Practice Test 3*	Sat, Nov 20	10am-2pm
Class 6	Sun, Nov 21	4:45-7:15pm	Class 6	Sun, Nov 21	4:45-7:15pm
Class 7	Sun, Dec 5***	4:45-7:15pm	Class 7	Sun, Dec 5***	4:45-7:15pm
*All In-Person classes will be safe and socially distanced **Halloween ***Skipping a week for Thanksgiving			*Practice Test days may have in-person options. TBA. **Halloween ***Skipping a week for Thanksgiving		

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

You must sign up for the actual SAT/ACT separately, at www.collegeboard.com & www.actstudent.org



PJ Test Prep

College Essay Program

PJ Test Prep Personalized Zoom and Video Essay program

GOAL: To minimize stress and cost and maximize quality and flexibility in helping a student COMPLETE THEIR PRIMARY COMMON APP ESSAY + 4 UC INSIGHT ESSAYS (which can also be re-used later for non-UC supplement essays!)

Includes:

- **3+ hours of pro video guidance** that 1) teach what colleges are looking for in App Essays and 2) demonstrate the steps needed to write a set of standout college essays, from start to finish.
- **5** (approximately weekly, but can be sped up) **Assignment Stages**, to plan, draft and polish these essays one step at a time.
- **Direct feedback at each stage**, including an initial call and email comments and answers at each stage, **two 30-minute coaching Zooms with Paul**, and **two rounds of audio and/or written notes** on ALL five essays.
- And while this program is generally enough to for students to complete solid third drafts of all essays, registration also grants a **25% discount an any additional essay review hours** that might be desired, for instance for later additional supplemental essays.

\$375

The program is instructed/guided by **Paul Jury**, founder of PJ Test Prep and Jury Academics, 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 coach for more than 1,000 College App essays.

www.pjtestprep.com to sign up
paul@pjtestprep.com or (310) 529-7285 for more info