

Getting Ready for the SAT

UNIT OVERVIEW

This phase acts as a jump start for students on the post-secondary application process. Pairs will (1) finalize their preliminary post-secondary list (2) learn the importance and steps to acquire letters of recommendation and (3) learn the importance and basics of applying for financial aid. They will plan summer tasks to complete in order to stay on track with the post-secondary application process and draft a pair summer communication plan.



LESSON OBJECTIVE

Students will understand the purpose of the SAT and what can be done in the summer to prepare for it.

PURPOSE

Students are more likely to prepare for and perform better on standardized tests that they view as purposeful and valuable. In this lesson, students will learn the value of the SAT with regards to their postsecondary goals. Students then review resources and tools for preparation.

AGENDA

5 min	Do Now <i>PSAT Reflection</i>
25 min	Learn & Engage <i>SAT Summer Study Plan</i>
10 min	Mentor Connection



KEY TAKEAWAY

Doing my best on the SAT can highlight my academic skills for colleges and open up new opportunities for me.

FACILITATOR NOTES

This lesson encourages students to use Khan Academy to review for the SAT exam. Before class, take time to familiarize yourself with the site and how students can access it.

For students who have limited access to the internet over the summer, share short lists of recommended SAT review books, bring in a few copies for students to borrow, or direct students to the regional office or library to borrow books.

MATERIALS: [SAT Presentation](#), [SAT Handout](#)

Do Now: PSAT Reflection Students reflect on their past performance on the PSAT (or other related standardized test).		Notes:
Slide 2 5 min	TALKING POINTS Please answer the questions on your worksheet and be prepared to share out. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How did you feel about taking the PSAT or other practice tests? What seems to be the most difficult part for you (math, reading, time management, etc.)? 	

Learn & Engage: SAT Study Plan Students create an SAT study plan.		Notes:
Slide 3 1 min	<i>Have a student read the key takeaway.</i>	
Slide 4 2 min	TALKING POINTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SAT is an important part of your college application process. Some schools you'll apply to will require you to submit your SAT score, so you want to make sure you put your best foot forward. Even for those that don't require you to submit an SAT score, being able to submit may give you a leg up on other applicants. It serves as another way for schools to learn about you as a student. For example, you may have struggled with grades in freshman and sophomore year, which pulled down your GPA. While you have worked to get your grades up, your GPA still may not be as strong as it could have been, and it may not reflect the student you are today. A strong performance on the SAT can communicate to colleges that your GPA reflects more who you <i>were</i> than who you <i>are now</i> as a student. It shows them that you are capable of hard work and growth. A strong score on the SAT can also open up opportunities for you like specialty programs or scholarships. Some schools as well as some independent organizations offer merit-based scholarships connected to your SAT score. 	
Slide 5	TALKING POINTS	

22 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since you have already taken the PSAT or SAT, you have information on how you did. If you have not yet received that information, you will soon. • This information can help you make a thoughtful plan for raising your score and showing your best self when you take it again in your senior year. • Khan Academy is a great tool for helping you study. It helps identify what you need to work on and aligns content and questions with your score on your previous exam. • You can also use it to set up a study schedule for yourself that you can then share with your mentor. <p>IF STUDENTS ALREADY HAVE KHAN ACADEMY ACCOUNTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct participants to log into their Khan Academy accounts. • Students should verify that their College Board accounts are linked to their Khan Academy accounts. • Then direct students to use the information derived from their test data to create a study schedule for the summer. <p>IF STUDENTS DO NOT HAVE KHAN ACADEMY ACCOUNTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have students create an account and link it to their College Board accounts. • Students should use the handout to create a study schedule. 	
Slide 6 Mentor Connection	TALKING POINTS Now let's write to our mentors.	
Slide 7 Extend	<i>If you have additional time remaining, consider asking students what new information they have learned from their mentor's message.</i>	



MENTEE PROMPT

1. Respond to your mentor's message and share one high point and one low point for this week.

My high point is...

My low point is...

2. What is your study plan? How can your mentor support you?

My study plan is...

You can support me by...



Mentor Connection

Overview

Students are more likely to prepare for and perform better on standardized tests that they view as purposeful and valuable. Today, your mentee learned and reviewed the value of the SAT with regards to their postsecondary goals. Then, your mentee reviewed resources and tools they can utilize. With their study plan and the resources, they will be able to raise their score and feel more confident in taking the SAT.

We encourage students to use [Khan Academy](#) for SAT prep. Here, they can create a study schedule that is tailored to their needs and have access to free test prep.

If your mentee is not using Khan Academy, there are many companies that produce SAT study books. The College Board and Barron's, for example, produce a new book each year. Select one to recommend to your mentee to get from the library or regional program office.

The more invested you are in encouraging your mentee to study, the more effective your mentee will be!

Your Response

Respond to your mentee's plan for preparing for the SAT.

- Give specific praise about at least one aspect of the plan.
- Make one suggestion to improve the plan.