



The Evidence Sandwich Method for SAT Reading

What It Is:

The Evidence Sandwich is a strategic approach for tackling SAT Reading comprehension questions, especially inference and evidence-based questions. It "sandwiches" your answer between supporting evidence from the passage.



The 3-Layer Structure:

 Bottom Bread: Find the Evidence FIRST

- Before looking at answer choices, locate the specific lines in the passage that relate to the question
- Underline or highlight the relevant text
- Look for key phrases, facts, or details that directly address what's being asked

 Meat: Make Your Inference/Answer

- Based ONLY on the evidence you found, determine what the passage suggests
- Stay close to the text - don't make wild leaps
- Choose the answer that's most directly supported by your evidence

 Top Bread: Verify with More Evidence

- Double-check your answer against the passage
- Look for additional supporting details that confirm your choice
- Make sure your answer doesn't contradict anything else in the passage



Why It Works:

Prevents Common SAT Reading Mistakes:

-  Choosing answers based on outside knowledge instead of the passage
-  Making inferences that are too extreme or go beyond what's stated
-  Falling for trap answers that sound good but aren't supported
-  Rushing to answer choices without understanding the passage first

Forces Good Reading Habits:

-  Evidence-based reasoning (exactly what SAT wants)
-  Close reading of the actual passage



- ✓ Systematic approach that works under time pressure
- ✓ Confidence in your answers because they're text-based



Step-by-Step Example:

Sample Question:

"Based on the passage, the author's attitude toward social media can best be described as..."

 Bottom Bread (Find Evidence First):

Look for lines like:

- "While social media connects us globally, it often isolates us locally"
- "The benefits are undeniable, yet the costs to mental health are concerning"
- "We must approach these platforms with both enthusiasm and caution"

 Meat (Make Inference):

Based on this evidence, the author shows mixed feelings - seeing both positives and negatives

 Top Bread (Verify):

Check that other parts of the passage support this balanced view, and that your answer doesn't contradict anything else

Answer: The author's attitude is ambivalent or cautiously optimistic (depending on answer choices)



When to Use It:

Perfect for These Question Types:

- Inference questions ("The passage suggests...")
- Author's attitude questions ("The author's tone can be described as...")
- Evidence questions ("Which choice provides the best evidence...")
- Vocabulary in context ("As used in line 25, 'liberal' most nearly means...")

Less Useful for:

- Main idea questions (need broader view of passage)
- Structure questions (focus on organization, not evidence)
- Direct fact questions (just need to locate specific information)