

Engaging Hooks & Strategies for SAT & ACT Essays



Hook Em from the Start

Your first sentence should grab attention and set the stage for your argument. Try one of these:

- Start with a Question: 'Would you trust social media to tell you the truth?'
- Use a Shocking Statistic: 'The average teenager spends over 7 hours a day on screens - how does that shape public opinion?'
- Make a Bold Statement: 'Social media isn't just influencing public opinion - it's controlling it.'

The Power of the Because Rule

A strong argument always answers 'Why?' Avoid weak statements like 'Technology is good.'

Instead, strengthen it:

- Weak: 'Technology helps students learn.'
- Strong: 'Technology helps students learn because it provides instant access to vast resources that improve critical thinking skills.'

Master the Magic 3 Formula

Essays feel stronger when your body paragraphs focus on three key points. Example outline:

- Thesis: 'Standardized tests should be eliminated because they do not measure true intelligence, increase student anxiety, and limit creative thinking.'
- Point 1: Standardized tests fail to measure real-world skills.
- Point 2: They create unnecessary pressure, hurting students' mental health.
- Point 3: Schools should focus on projects and hands-on learning instead.
- Conclusion: Wrap it up with a strong final thought that echoes your main idea.

Think Like a Lawyer - Use the P.E.E. Strategy

When making a point, follow this method:

- Point - Make a clear claim. ('Climate change is the most urgent crisis today.')
- Evidence - Back it up with proof. ('Global temperatures have risen by 2°F in the past century, causing more wildfires and hurricanes.')
- Explain - Connect it to the bigger picture. ('This rise in disasters shows that immediate action is needed to protect future generations.')

Drop the Mic - End with Impact

Your final sentence should leave a lasting impression. Try:

- A Call to Action: 'If schools want to prepare students for real life, they must abandon outdated testing and embrace hands-on learning.'
- A Powerful Question: 'If students' futures are on the line, why are we still using outdated exams to define them?'
- A Thought-Provoking Statement: 'The world is changing fast - our education system must change with it.'