**SAT Reading Test Day Cheat Sheet**

* Read the blurb before every passage.
* Annotate the two vocabulary questions in passage and answer these while reading.
* Read the passage FIRST to get the general idea and tone (~4 minutes MAX).
* Annotate and exert every effort to find the passage intriguing.
* Immediately cross out any answers that include even ONE WORD that makes it wrong.
* Read AT LEAST one sentence before and one sentence after when solving any line reference question.
* Treat your double passages as two separate single passages and rely heavily on perspective to narrow down your choices.
* Treat all questions as having ONE PARAGRAPH that justifies the answer, even if they have no line reference.
* Think of your own answer to a question before reading the actual answers, especially for the vocab questions.
* Use the author’s main idea and tone to narrow down to the correct answer. BIG PICTURE-OVERARCHING THEME-MAIN PERSPECTIVE!
* Take at least 30 seconds to 1 minute to digest the information in a graphic; these questions should be easy if you don’t rush! (This is the one time when slowing down, slightly, is really important.)
* When in doubt, go for the least extreme, least specific answer.

**SAT Writing Test Day Cheat Sheet**

* For grammar questions, the shortest answer is USUALLY the best.
* For verb questions, cross out phrases or clauses between subject and verb (assume College Board is trying to trick you into connecting the wrong noun with the verb).
* For pronoun questions, if a regular noun is an answer choice, that probably is the right answer (SAT likes clarifying ambiguous pronouns).
* For comparison questions, make sure both sides of the comparison are matching.
* For parallelism questions, make sure all items in the list or parallel parts of the sentence are matching.
* For comma questions, don’t add commas for “pauses” unless there is a concrete rule (this usually means you DON’T NEED commas to separate prepositional phrases).
* For other punctuation, remember . . .
* Dashes = super commas + colons.
* Semicolons = periods.
* Colons require a sentence before (like a period) and then anything can come after them, including a full sentence, a phrase, or a word.
* For paragraph questions, find OBVIOUS, LITERAL word links between topic sentences and support sentences when adding either or rearranging order.
* For transition questions, if two answers mean the same general relationship (support, contrast, or cause/effect), then both are incorrect and you should look elsewhere.
* For all rhetorical questions, rely on the FLOW technique to decide whether a sentence needs to be added, deleted, or moved around.