



PSATs AND beyond...

a look into the junior year

Question of the day

Choose the word or set of words that, when inserted in the sentence, *best* fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole.

I found that the writer's ideas were sufficiently -----
-- to make me bear with his ----- language.

- A. intriguing . . skill with
- B. interesting . . abuses of
- C. humble . . mastery of
- D. shallow . . errors in
- E. misguided . . style of

And the answer is

A. CORRECT! Here's why:

The key words are “sufficiently,” which indicates the narrator’s positive response to the writer’s ideas, and “bear with,” which conveys the narrator’s negative feelings toward the writer’s language. Only “interesting...abuses of” provides a corresponding positive-negative relationship.

Difficulty:

Medium

The BIG day

- You will take the PSATs Wednesday October 18th in the gym
- Length - 2 hours and 10 minutes
- Bring a snack, sweater or sweatshirt, pencil, and a book to read

But *why*?

Students take the PSAT/NMSQT to:

- **Help assess academic skills necessary for college-level work**
- **Prepare for the SAT**
- **Receive information from colleges and begin college and career planning**
- **Enter Competitions for *National Merit Scholarships***

Tricks & Tips

- **Order of Difficulty (OOD)** - PSAT divided into three levels of difficulty: easy, medium, hard. So, if a group has nine questions, the first three are easy, the second three are medium, and the last three are hard. Since easy, medium, and hard questions are worth the same amount, spend the majority of your time making sure you get the easy and medium questions right.

Tricks & Tips

- **Process of Elimination (POE)** - Instead of trying to find the right answer, try to find the wrong answers. By eliminating wrong answers, you greatly improve your chances of getting the question right because even if you can't narrow your choices to a single answer at the end, you will have only two or three to choose from instead of all five. Physically cross out the wrong answer choices in your test booklet, and then guess among whichever answer choices remain.

POE at work

Hearing that the Statue of Liberty did not have a pedestal, a campaign was begun by Joseph Pulitzer to raise money for the construction of one.

- (A) a campaign was begun by Joseph Pulitzer to raise money
- (B) a campaign to raise money was initiated by Joseph Pulitzer
- (C) money was raised in a campaign by Joseph Pulitzer
- (D) Joseph Pulitzer began a campaign to raise money
- (E) Joseph Pulitzer had campaigned to raise money

Product of elimination

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

This sentence contains an error of modification.

The introductory clause, "Hearing that the Statue of Liberty did not have a pedestal," cannot modify "campaign": a campaign to raise money cannot hear things. As it is Joseph Pulitzer who did the hearing, choices D and E initially seem plausible. Choice E, however, unjustifiably uses the past perfect ("had campaigned"), leaving D as the only correct choice. The correct sentence reads: **Hearing that the Statue of Liberty did not have a pedestal, Joseph Pulitzer began a campaign to raise money for the construction of one.**

QuickStart in January

You'll get My College QuickStart, a free personalized planning kit based on your test results. Take the next steps toward college with these features:

- An online score report, including projected SAT score ranges, state percentiles, and the power to sort answer explanations by difficulty and question type
- A customized SAT study plan
- Personalized lists of colleges, majors, and careers

What next?

- Use QuickStart to begin your college search
- Register to take the SAT in the *summer* – you can take the test multiple times. Start early so you have time for additional preparation if needed
- Start visiting colleges

Quality *and* Quantity

- Colleges are not just looking for a high GPA, they also want to find students taking challenging coursework like **AP** or honors courses
- Community service hours are great but are they really impacting your community? Do something *meaningful!*
- School involvement is a must but try leading, either in sports, student council or the arts



So let's make it happen!

*Our truest life is when we are
in dreams awake - Thoreau*

- If you could go to any college of your choosing, where would it be?
- If you could do anything with your life, what would it be?
- What could prevent you from achieving your dreams?
- What *action* would make you one step closer to living out your dream?