



**Diagnostic Exam Evaluation**

**Name: Marcus Li**

<b>Math:</b>	<b>630</b>
<b>Crit Read:</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>Writing:</b>	<b>580</b>
<b>Essay:</b>	<b>3</b>

### Analysis

Marcus, great job on your first exam!

We have a lot to cover that will help you to your highest SAT score possible.

With your continued motivation, work, and review, the scores will reflect your true abilities as an expert test taker – so It is too early to be frustrated and fearful as a test taker!

Let's go over Math first, shall we?

#### Math: 630

This is our most comfortable section, by far. I think we were a little rusty from all the rest we had over the summer, and I am sure you are disappointed from the lower 630 score – from what you told me, we both know that we can do better on this section.

With that said, let's focus hard on the four basic components of the math section – Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry and Word Translations.

In particular, we had substantial trouble with algebraic equations, involving formulas and exponents. These are manipulative and rule-based mathematical concepts (such as Section 5, Q#s: 11, 16, 19 and 25) that will only improve with practice and review.

Student Produced Response Questions also gave us a tough time for some reason. Although we correctly answered 6 questions, we could have solved 2 out of the 4 incorrect answers – had we not succumbed to careless errors. My thought is that there is a mental shift that somehow throws us off-balance in these types of questions, and we are a little less confident here. This section is something we must focus on immediately.

It's going to take a lot of hard work, and personal effort on your part Marcus. You cannot be shy about achieving success here! You have to believe that you can win over this section.

We have consistently seen 630's succeed into high 700's in our past students. I know you can do this too.

We will tackle math in the middle to end of the class session together, but let's meet sometime within the next two sessions privately to discuss what our options are so that you can really hit the ground running for the math section for test day.

Our ultimate goal here should be **750**. With enough hard work, and due diligence, we can absolutely positively beat this goal score.

### Crit. Reading: 500

Marcus, we have some work to do here. You generally understand the point, and can usually decipher the author's reasoning – but we do have a severe weakness in correctly answering **inference and purpose** questions.

**Inference** questions ask us to determine a logical conclusion based upon the author's evidence given in the passage. It is also by far the most frequently asked questions on the SAT CR section.

**Purpose** questions require us to have a thorough understanding of the entire passage – without which we would not show comprehension of the passage itself, or the author's point.

We will be reviewing Reading Comprehension fundamentals starting from session 2 for the next two weeks so please give your undivided attention to the process of learning, ask a lot of questions, and take a lot of notes.

Sentence Completions are also a big weakness here – my recommendation here is for you to begin our study of tough SAT vocab words immediately. We will also go over this technique, and the Meridian *Vocab* program in session 2.

Nothing else can get us a higher score on Sentence Completion than a *greater knowledge of English vocabulary*. We should strive to learn as many as possible **every single day** Marcus. You will be amazed at how many new vocabulary words you can memorize in the next 8 weeks together.

Our goal score here should be to break **650**. It will be a section that we focus the most to improve on the SAT for us. We will score higher on this section Marcus! You can do it!

### Writing: 580

We have a general weakness in this area. In fact, we are weak in almost every area, including ID Sentence Error, ID Paragraph Error, and Sentence Correction.

Fortunately we have a tremendously effective program for grammar rules. We will cover this area in complete detail in the middle weeks – please pay attention to the various different components of correct sentence structure.

We will study diligently on the following areas: Verb and Pronoun Agreement, Modifiers, Parallels and Comparisons, Diction and Idiomatic Usage.

In fact, by the time we are done, you will realize that you know so much more about grammar than you had ever thought possible!

Remember: improving Writing involves a LOT of practice for us to succeed. I know you can do this, Marcus!

Our goal in Writing will be **680**.

### Essay: 3.0

This section is perhaps our weakest area in the SAT Marcus. Now, there's good news and bad news. The *bad* news is that if we leave this area alone then we won't improve. Sounds simple, right?

The *good* news is that this is a section that you can improve **DRAMATICALLY** with enough practice, review, more practice and more review.

We must work on the following:

- Develop a clear understanding of the “quoted text”
- Have a proper comprehension of the Assignment
- Present a solid Position
- Not contradict your position in your essay!
- Grasp good Diction and proper Grammar rules

At this point, our understanding of the Essay and its rudimentary structure must be firmed up – please talk to me about this, because your co-tutors will work with you extensively and throughout the course until we can achieve a goal of 5.0+ on the essay.

I know you can do this Marcus. I can read it in your essay. You absolutely have the potential to get there. It will take time and a LOT of writing from now until test day, but you will get there if you try and want it hard enough, ok?

We all believe in you.

### Homework:

- Review the exam, and mark down any questions to review for the start of our next session together
- Again, don't be afraid of success. You can do it!