

Honors English Composition

Syllabus & Reference Materials for the Common Core, for the SAT, & Beyond

As hard as that is to believe, here's a physical representation of your brain power after taking a standard 11th Grade English course offered to Pennsylvania students:



Pretty sad, huh? Here's what your brain power looks like after just 9 weeks on Tyrone's 11th Grade English course:



"It's like Reading & Writing on Steroids!"

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Some Recent Testimonials

-----Original Message-----

From: vmg5037@gmail.com [<mailto:vmg5037@gmail.com>] **On Behalf Of** vincent gray
Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2012 2:15 AM
To: Everhart, Stephen L.
Subject: vincent gray thanks Mr. Everhart

Mr. Everhart,

I am looking down the barrel of having three days left of classes at Penn State University Park where I have been for the previous four years. Today I realized that I have very limited time left and decided to email the two teachers that had the greatest impact on sculpting me as a student-- you and Mr. Feather. The summer after I finished high school I passed English fifteen with a 97%. I attribute this entirely to you. You taught me to develop my own voice in my writing and gave me the confidence to seamlessly stack my writing up against the best in the state. I was published in *Penn Statements*-- the handbook for English 15 every freshman must purchase. Unfortunately I refused because my professor asked me to rewrite a conclusion to an essay calling for Joe Pa's retirement in 2008, a very solemn circumstance reflecting on it now. I assume that you most likely do not need reassurance you are doing an outstanding job sculpting young writers based on the quality of work you publish in *Stardust* every year. I would like you to know that ever since my freshman year in Mr. Merryman's class reading *Stardust* it was my dream to be published in it let alone to be voted best narrative of my class. Ever since I have taken your class junior year of high school I have never been pushed quite as hard to tap into my creative writing ability. In conclusion, Mr. Everhart I would like to thank you with everything that I am for preparing me more than anyone for the college atmosphere.

Vince Gray

-----Original Message-----

From: swartz0934@aol.com [<mailto:swartz0934@aol.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 12:57 PM
To: Everhart, Stephen L.
Subject: Thank you!

Mr. Everhart,

I was just wanting to write you to give you a huge thank you! Throughout my entire high school experience I can honestly say that your class is truly the one that has helped me the most. I just began my English 015 course at the beginning of the semester, and I feel so prepared from being in your class! Everything we are learning so far is something that you have already taught me. It's very cool to sit in a college class and already understand what you're learning about. Please share this with your students! If I would have known then what I know now I wouldn't have felt like it was just another class I had to take. It wasn't one I had to pay for either! Once again I thank you for everything you have taught me!

Erica Swartz

From: Tim Crabtree [<mailto:little8293@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 01, 2012 9:50 PM
To: Everhart, Stephen L.
Subject: Regarding your class

Hi Mr. Everhart,

What you teach in your English 11 class is excellent. I'm not sure if you had known, but I enrolled in PACE at PSU where I took an English 15 course. Because of those packets and specifically your "sports caster" quoting technique lesson, I excelled in the English 15 class. Despite having less total years in any English classes than most of the students, I performed significantly better than most of them. Anyone with even a small bit of self-motivation in your class should excel in their future writing classes, and I thank you for how well you taught.

Tim Crabtree

Classroom Rules

1. **YOUR BUTT:** Have it in a seat from bell to bell. Do not linger in the hall or near the door before or after class. Instead, come in, find your assigned seat, read the lesson plan on the blackboard, log on to your laptop, and prepare your materials before the bell even rings.
2. **YOUR MOUTH** (sorry to place this item so close to “**YOUR BUTT**”): Don't talk while classmates are presenting, the teacher is teaching, or the class is working silently [especially during rough draft sessions and one-on-one conferences!].
3. **YOUR “POTTY” MOUTH:** Don't use any words here that you wouldn't use in church.
4. **THE REST OF YOUR BODY:** Get it to class. Three tardies equal a cut, and a cut equals a loss of all 50 effort points, or 10% of your grade.
5. **YOUR STATE OF CONSCIOUSNESS:** If you cannot stay awake while seated, then you will stand. Keep your head off the desk and this will not happen.
6. **YOUR GUM ADDICTION:** Chew gum as long as it can't be seen or heard.
7. **YOUR NBA CAREER:** Don't free-throw anything across the room, especially pencils or trash.
8. **YOUR CHROMEBOOK/CELL:** You must bring your Chromebook on days posted on the whiteboard at the side of the room. Do not rely on the extras in the classroom as they are for emergency back-up only. If you do use a classroom Chromebook, you must plug it in at the end of the period or you will lose the privilege to use it again. On drafting days, we will work up till the last 60-seconds of the period. If you have a late essay, you lose movie-viewing and music-listening rights and will receive academic detention until assignments are complete.) “Music” is okay *only when rough drafting* and *only if others cannot hear it*. No cells visible or on at any time.
9. **YOUR DEVILISH SIDE:** Avoid horseplay.
10. **YOUR ATTENTION:** Leave these distracting items in your locker: items you intend to sell [I'm extremely cheap...so please don't try to sell me anything], cosmetics, phone devices, vulgar t-shirts, toys, food, and drinks other than water.
11. **YOUR ACADEMIC TOOL-BELT:** Bring these three items to the job-site every day: pen(cil), notebook, and manila folder with current 9-week packets.
12. **YOUR LIBIDO:** Don't swap saliva outside my door.
13. **YOUR PENCHANT TO PROCRASTINATE:** Hand in compositions on time. 10% off each day late, with 40% as the maximum late charge. Names will be posted.
14. **YOUR CREDIT RATING:** Give the teacher valued collateral for borrowed pencils.
15. **THE LOVE YOU BEAR YOUR FELLOW MAN:** Don't ridicule each other.
16. **YOUR DESIRE TO ESCAPE:** No hall passes during the first 5 minutes and last 15 minutes of class. Sign in and out every time you leave or enter class and take the green pass with you. No more than one person in the hall at a time, and only three total hall trips are permitted each period for a class. Frequent fliers will have their wings clipped. *I do not write passes to the Guidance Office.*
17. **YOUR HEALTH:** Don't ask to go to the nurse unless you are truly ill. No nurse passes are written 1st period since the Health Suite is closed then.
18. **YOUR ATTENDANCE CODES:** **ABS**=absent on a quiz day, no effect on grade unless you fail to submit an excuse within three days: **UA**=unexcused after the 3rd day; **M**=missing a composition, a zero until turned in.
19. **YOUR SUB:** Treat him better than you treat me.
20. **YOUR AROMA:** Take a bath, wash your sneakers, and use a deodorant whether you think you need to or not. If you ate at Chili's last night, process the aftermath in the hallway. As such courtesies grease the wheels of civilization, we thank you.

Syllabus for English 11: Mr. Everhart

-Composition plus Grammar, Usage, Mechanics-

The title of this course is Honors Keystone Composition, a writing-centered program designed to ensure that students succeed in college freshman composition, on the SAT's, and on the state's Keystone Composition exam if instituted. Students write sixteen college-length informative, persuasive, narrative, and poetic compositions that will hone their style, content, organization, focus, and grasp of grammatical conventions. These compositions also thoroughly prepare students for college freshman composition courses and for college-level research writing since almost all papers require some form of research-based support and MLA-style citations of the sources used. The composition elements of this course address at some point every Common Core Writing and Language standard. SAT-style grammar and usage instruction in this course is frequent and focused, entailing regular drill, practice, application, and feedback in compositions and on quizzes.

-Literature-

A mixture of classic and fun-stuff too [sometimes the two do intersect] is the best way to describe this year's literary offerings, topped off with a modicum of choice. A student favorite, the darkly comic novel *Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson will lead off our reading. The classics include *Death of a Salesman*, *The Short Works of Edgar Allan Poe*, *Fahrenheit 451*, plus the likely suspects: Hawthorne, Thoreau, Emerson, Dickinson, Twain, Hemingway. In an attempt to encourage dynamic personal reading, however, students can choose two major works of their own preference, one fiction, and one non-fiction from the much acclaimed *Opposing Viewpoints* research series of controversial research issues. A touch of bad romance, a drop of horror, a smidgen of philosophy, a glimmer from the apocalyptic fires of a science fiction future, and atop all of this a sprinkling of laughter: it's everything you always wanted from a good reading course...plus some things you *don't* want but must have anyway, like standards-based quizzes, just to make sure that you understand what you are reading. The literature elements of this course address at some point every Common Core Reading standard.

-SAT Vocabulary-

Tough SAT caliber words [like *pandemonium* and *inscrutable*] await you. All-Skills Quizzes every two weeks will test not only tough vocabulary words but also spelling, writing, and reading skills. To maximize SAT vocabulary, all honors students will memorize 50 words tested biweekly—this amounts to 800 words for the school year. This load will require independent out-of-class preparation and regular student-directed rehearsal of words in contextual sentences. These same words are already learned in our SAT Review class; we incorporate them in this class so that students who cannot schedule the Review classes can still have exposure to the words needed for SAT success. All vocabulary quizzes feature real SAT Tips and real SAT questions.

-Grading-

- Four 100-point compositions comprise 40-50% of the 9-week grade--10% is deducted each day late up to 40%.
- All compositions earning less than a C- [70%] can be redone, unless you smile nicely at me—in which case I'll let you re-do anything.
- Papers lacking proper MLA-style research citations and Works Cited pages cannot receive higher than a B-/80%.
- Vocabulary, reading, and writing quizzes comprise the other 50-60% of the grade.
- 10% of each 9-week's grade may be reserved for effort to complete homework.
- No make-up quizzes are given—you either will receive a "0"/UA for an Unexcused Absence if absent but unexcused or an ABS, which means you were legally absent and therefore do not have to retake the quiz. An unexcused absence on a quiz or test date is a mandatory zero—teachers have no choice in this!
- Bonus points are awarded for typing [+5] using vocabulary words in essays [+5 maximum], creative titles [+2], or choosing a literary topic [+5].

GIFTED / HIGH ABILITY Note applicable composition #s.	REGULAR ABILITY	LOW ABILITY
incorporate multiple research sources with proper MLA-style citations comps 1,2,3,5,6,7,8,12,14,15,16	incorporate one research source with proper MLA-style citations	no research sources required but 80% maximum grade is imposed
use independently gleaned examples and details from research comps 1,2,3,5,6,7,8,15,16	use examples gleaned from both the teacher and from independent research	use examples provided by the teacher
select and address a more rigorous or related writing topic and subtopic that holds more personal and creative meaning or substitute the assignment for participation in a local, state, or national literary contest comps 1,2,3,5,6,7,8,15,16	address the topic and subtopics assigned	address a topic of a more concrete and accessible nature with the guidance of the teacher and/or paraprofessional
select a classic literary work instead of a popular literature selection or a non-literary selection as a composition topic comps 5,8	select a literary selection, either classic or popular as a composition topic	substitute a non-literary work for a literary one as a composition topic
select an additional or alternative literary work from the same author discussed in class for purposes of independent composition and reading comps 3,12,14,15,16	read and write about the work assigned to the whole class	substitute a simpler work or provide audiotapes of works studied that are too challenging; read more challenging classic works aloud in class whenever possible.
refine and revise submitted work after it has been graded and peer and self edited for publication in literary magazines or newspapers comps 1 through 16	peer and self edit submitted work	edit submitted work with the aid of a paraprofessional
encourage taking SAT vocabulary program as an adjunct to English 11 to expand vocabulary development at 50 words per week	5 SAT vocabulary words per week, encouraging use of words in essays via bonus points	5 SAT vocabulary words per week on quizzes only

One of the major goals of gifted assignments is to remove instructional scaffolding as much as possible. Here are a handful of examples of "scaffold-less" 11th grade gifted projects:

1. creating and posting an instructional *YouTube* video to teach would-be comedians a few of the comedy techniques studied in class.
2. devising a *Fahrenheit 451* movie trailer to market the novel as a feature film.
3. participating in PSU's annual Pennsylvania 11th Grade Writing Contest, winners take home \$100, tour the campus with other students, and have dinner on the house at the Nittany Lion Inn.
4. recording a speech for submission in the annual Voice of Democracy oratory competition...1st prize, \$30,000!
5. rewriting a scene from Miller's *Death of a Salesman* with the inclusion of a totally new character who injects fresh insight on the Loman family's self-destructive dynamics.

Required Composition Topics

First Marking Period

1. **“Who [or What] Do You Love?”**: Persuade a magazine audience that an individual or product deserves praise.
2. **“A Sucker Every Minute”**: Analyze advertising's persuasive techniques.
3. **“Scare Tactics”**: Compare horror masters Poe and Hitchcock.
4. **“Truer Words”**: “Narrate a story or write an essay dramatizing the truth of an Emerson or Thoreau adage.

Second Marking Period

5. **“Reality Check”**: Evaluate the realism of a piece of fiction.
6. **“Groin Kicks and White Chicks”**: Analyze comedy techniques.
7. **“Basic Training: Weapons of Persuasion”**: Research an issue and then advocate a policy change or stance on it.
8. **“Speak the Unspeakable”**: Recommend that readers read or avoid a piece of literature by evaluating the appeal of its conflict, tone, and style.

Third Marking Period

9. **“Can You Feel It?”**: Write a poem / lyric passionately expressing an emotion.
10. **“Once Upon a Me”**: Write a poem / lyric reflecting on the significance of one of your childhood experiences.
11. **“A Poem of Your Choice”**: Write a poem / lyric of your choice...no teacher-topic interference.
12. **“Getting Tone”**: Analyze the tone shifts in Whitman's Civil War poetry.
13. **“Fiction-Mongering”**: Write a short story...again, no teacher-topic interference
14. **“From Uncle Tom to Barack Obama”**: Analyze how various figures from the humanities either perpetrate or terminate black stereotypes in America.

Fourth Marking Period

15. **“Welcome to the Future...is it Now?”**: “Compare Bradbury's futuristic world in *Fahrenheit 451* to our world.
16. **“20,000 Reasons to Throw Away Your Soul”**: Persuade others that the American Dream is / isn't harmful, inform others about the traits of a successful family, or narrate an encounter between one of the Lomans in *Death of a Salesman* and a first-person narrator that you invent.

PA CORE ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS RELEVANT TO THE 16 KEYSTONE COMPOSITION UNITS

LITERATURE

How do strategic readers create meaning from informational and literary text?

[3,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16]

How do readers know what to believe in what they read, hear, and view? [2,5,7]

What is this text really about?? [3,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16]

How does interaction with text provoke thinking and response? ?

[3,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16]

VOCABULARY

What strategies and resources does the learner use to figure out unknown vocabulary? [1-16]

How does one develop and refine vocabulary? [1-16]

COMPOSITION [1-16]

What is my purpose? [1-16]

Who is my audience? [1-16]

What makes my writing clear and effective? [1-16]

What will work best for my audience? [1-16]

How do grammar and the conventions of language influence my spoken and written communication? [1-16]

RESEARCH

What does a reader look for and how can he find it?[1-8, 12, 14-16]

How does a reader know a source can be trusted? [7]

Composition Re-Do Policy

The intent of this policy is to make certain that every student who learns from his mistakes can succeed in this course and that quality and appearance standards are met. The following provisions build such success:

1. Compositions **must** be re-done if any of these conditions are not met: the heading is wrong, no rough draft is attached, the format is wrong (not in blue or black ink if handwritten, writing on both sides of the paper, not double spaced if typed), or the paper is messy (more than 2 cross-outs per page/ white-out does not count as a cross-out).
2. Compositions **may** be re-done under these circumstances: the student has earned a grade less than a **[70%]** (unless I feel bad for you and/or you play nice) and the skills to be re-done are not big three FCA's: spelling, frag/runs, and TS/SUBS. These FCA's are not re-doable...all others are.
3. The original composition must be turned in with the re-done version [2] days after the student received the paper. The paper may not have to be totally re-done...just those pages on which errors occur.

The Master Queue: Print at School for Free!

1. Change your Google document to a PDF by going to File->Download As->PDF.
2. To print the PDF file, browse to www.tyrone.k12.pa.us/print. (Please bookmark this website on your Chromebook if you haven't already.)
3. Enter your district username and password.
4. Click on "Choose file" to upload the document you want to print.
5. Select the PDF file you want to print via the Google Drive or Download folder by double clicking on the file name.
6. Click on the green "Next" button.
7. When the status of the print job changes from "Awaiting processing" to "Awaiting release", click on the "Master Queue" button to send the print job to the printer/copier located near the bottom of the screen. (Your document will sit and wait in the Master Queue until you walk to a printer/copier to retrieve it.)
8. Go to a printer/copier: by the Attendance Office/MS SAP Room, by Mr. Wilson's room, in the library, cafeteria, room 230 to release the print job.
9. Once at a printer/copier, press "Keyboard Access" on the screen or push the "Log In/Out" button.
10. Punch in your ID number, which is your lunch number.
11. Push the "Services Home" button to the left of the display screen.
12. Press "Custom Services" on the screen of options.
13. Press "Print Job Release."
14. Select the documents you want to print.
15. Press "Print."
16. Collect your documents from the printer/copier tray, which is on the right on most machines but not all. The printer/copier next to Mr. Wilson's room prints documents *below* the login screen.
17. Then log out using the "Log In/Out" button to the right of the display screen, and get back to class!

Russ Beck

Beck 1

September 26, 2002

English 11

Mr. Everhart

~Hail, JoePa~

When you think about Penn State football, you think of one man, Joe Paterno. His 345 wins place him second on the all-time Division I-A win list, just behind Bobby Bowden, who has 23 wins with Samford, a Division I-AA school that by equal standards should not count toward Bowden's legacy. You see, back in Bowden's Samford days there were no NCAA divisions. In his day, Joe has been to thirty-one Bowl Games, winning twenty, and has two National Championships, not to mention five undefeated seasons which, if Division I-A had a standard playoff system, would have translated into four national championships. He has been coaching the Nittany Lions for forty years and has been in the organization for fifty-five years. Happy Valley without "JoePa" is almost un-imaginable. Seventy-four of his players have made first team All-American. Nearly three-hundred have made the NFL with twenty-nine going in the first round (**Longoria 3**). Not only does he coach at a legendary football school; he contributes to a great academic school as well. Penn State has a 74% graduation rate, surpassing the national average of 54% (**Longoria 7**). While he's taken a lot of heat during the Lions' recent funk, Joe Paterno deserves praise because of his phenomenal recruiting class, the hype and prestige of the upcoming season, and his contributions to the wonderful environment in which he coaches.

Joe Paterno is the nation's best coach this year--and he can thank his phenomenal recruiting class for giving him a boost. Penn State attracted sundry top recruits in Justin King (#7), Derrick Williams (#2), and Lydell Sargeant (#16). Derrick Williams announced on national television that he would be honored to play for Joe Paterno instead of other more dominant teams. Ever since 2002 when the Nittany Lions experienced an 8-4 season, beating Nebraska 40-7 on national television and sent four players in the 1st round, they have lamented a string of fifteen losses in just two seasons. In that span, however, PSU has been rebuilding. Joe Paterno's allure and prestige have put stars in eighteen-year-old eyes. Previous top recruits include Anthony Morelli (#14), Austin Scott (#33), Tony Hunt (#26), and highly recruited walk-on Deon Butler (#3). Morelli was rated the top high school QB in the nation. In the first 2 games of the 2005 season, these recruits have proven their worth. Justin King has made two big plays including a sixty-yard reverse and a fifty-nine-yard TD reception. Derrick Williams has 7 receptions for 98 yard, and Tony Hunt has rushed 26 times for 184 yard and a TD. Deon Butler had a breakout game against Cincinnati hauling in two passes for 73 yards and a TD. Oh, and don't forget--Justin King made numerous defensive plays. The Lions are looking at a solid D and a big-play O all because of Joe Paterno's astute recruiting skills

The hype all started with ex-ESPN college football analyst Trev Albert who predicts that the Lions should start the season 5-0 heading into a nationally televised game with top-5 team Ohio State. Should Penn State win that game, watch out. The Lions are young and full of potential. The only problem is the inexperience on the team. None of the offensive players played on the team that went to the Outback Bowl in '02 against Auburn. The Lions get a tough one on the road after Ohio State with Michigan, who have a bye week to prepare. The only other game that should give PSU a test is

the boilermakers of Purdue. Those three games fall in a four week span. That span will prove if the Lions deserve a January 2 bowl game or not. It seems that some of the fair-weathered fans have been doubting the decisions that Joe has been making, self-righteously loathing him at times, but they have no reason to. Two bad seasons in a span of 55 is acceptable in any other field of endeavor. However, this year should shut up the bandwagon jumpers. Even in the first week when Penn State opened against a clearly overmatched South Florida team looking to pick up a big paycheck, fans criticized the play-calling and pass routes. Again in the second game against another terrible team in Cincinnati the fans still criticized until the play-books were opened in the 2nd half and PSU exploded for three TD's. These armchair quarterbacks need to learn a thing or two about football. As the shirts seen throughout Happy Valley say, "Joe Knows Football." The season-to-be has a lot of expectation and hype. If the freshmen and sophomores can score some points, the top-5 defense can shut the opposition down, resulting in wins-- not 6-4 losses. If the offense scores, the lions win.

Beaver Stadium. 110,000 people. 'Nuff said. The environment in which Joe Paterno coaches and Penn State plays is one of the best in the nation. Paterno is the reason for that environment. Beaver Stadium holds more people than every NFL stadium and most NCAA stadiums. In fact, only Michigan has a bigger stadium. However, if Beaver's seats (8in.) were as small as Michigan's (6in.) Penn State would have the largest football stadium in the nation. It is every young PSU fan's dream to be standing in that tunnel behind JoePa, 115,000 screaming fans cheering you on and you run through the Blue Band to an eruption of deafening cheers. When fifth-year senior CB Anwar Phillips (#1) was asked what his best memory of his Penn State career would be he responded, "Coming out of the tunnel. The fans and the whole atmosphere is great" (**Nelson 3**). He was later asked how he would describe fans on game day. He

replied using just one word, “crazy” (**Nelson 6**). Beaver Stadium brings an intimidation level with it. The other team, most likely hasn’t played in that atmosphere before. Remember, it gets even louder when a team like Purdue (’05), Nebraska (’02), Ohio State(’03), Michigan (’06), or Notre Dame (’06) comes to town. The fans tailgate all day, getting revved up for the game, and then cheer on a team that always plays well in big games. Those 2 INTs knocked Orton’s Heisman hopes out the window. But the loudest game ever played at Beaver had to be the Nebraska game of ’02. Unranked PSU dominated a highly ranked Cornhusker team that had National Championship hopes. The Lions won 40-7 and put themselves back on the college football map. All these games can be attributed to JoePa’s coaching, the players good play, and the loyal fans. Penn State is lucky to have a fiery stadium like Beaver—and fiery, consistent coaching is the reason why Joe is the coach of the year.

Joe Paterno should be coach of the year because of his phenomenal recruiting class, the hype and prestige of the upcoming season, and the wonderful environment in which he breeds. No other coach can say that he has been coaching the same school long enough to see 11 different Presidents of the United States hold office (**GoPSUS 2**). No one has donated more money to a college. No one has better fans. No one has more respect.

Works Cited

“GoPSUSports”. GoPSUSports.com/football/Ppl/paternobody. cfm.12 September 2005.

Longoria, Rico. “Paterno’s Return”. m/ncf/ preview 01/5/joepa#’s.html. 12 September 2005.

Nelson, Jeff. *Penn State 2005 Kickoff Magazine*. 10 September 2005.

In-Text Citations Rules

MLA format follows the author-page method of in-text citation. This means that the author's last name and the page number(s) from which the quotation or paraphrase is taken must appear in the text, and a complete reference should appear on your Works Cited page. For example:

As Wordsworth stated, Romantic poetry was marked by a "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (Wordsworth 263).

Wordsworth extensively explored the role of emotion in the creative process (Wordsworth 263).

Both citations in the examples above tell readers that the information in the sentence can be located on page 263 of a work by an author named Wordsworth. If readers want more information about this source, they can turn to the Works Cited page, where, under the name of Wordsworth, they would find the following information:

Wordsworth, William. *Lyrical Ballads*. London: Oxford U.P., 1967.

MLA Works Cited Page Rules

1. Begin your Works Cited page on a separate page at the end of your research paper. It should have the same one-inch margins and last name, page number header as the rest of your paper.
2. Label the page Works Cited (do not italicize the words Works Cited or put them in quotation marks) and center the words Works Cited at the top of the page.
3. Double space all citations, but do not skip spaces between entries.
4. Indent the second and subsequent lines of citations five spaces so that you create a hanging indent.
5. List page numbers of sources efficiently, when needed. If you refer to a journal article that appeared on pages 225 through 250, list the page numbers on your Works Cited page as 225-50.
6. *Writers are no longer required to provide URLs for Web entries.* However, if your instructor or publisher insists on them, include them in angle brackets after the entry and end with a period. For long URLs, break lines only at slashes.

Model Works Cited Page:

Works Cited

- "Blueprint Lays Out Clear Path for Climate Action." *Environmental Defense Fund*. Environmental Defense Fund, 8 May 2007. Web. 24 May 2009.
- Clinton, Bill. Interview by Andrew C. Revkin. "Clinton on Climate Change." *New York Times*. New York Times, May 2007. Web. 25 May 2009.
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- An Inconvenient Truth*. Dir. Davis Guggenheim. Perf. Al Gore, Billy West. Paramount, 2006. DVD.
- Leroux, Marcel. *Global Warming: Myth Or Reality?: The Erring Ways of Climatology*. New York: Springer, 2005. Print.
- Milken, Michael, Gary Becker, Myron Scholes, and Daniel Kahneman. "On Global Warming and Financial Imbalances." *New Perspectives Quarterly* 23.4 (2006): 63. Print

WHEN DON'T YOU HAVE TO CITE?

For *Common Knowledge* & For Your *Own Ideas* and *Prior Knowledge*

Information that is common knowledge does not need to be cited, like the fact that the United States of America has been around since 1776 or the words to "Jack and Jill". You also don't have to give a citation for facts or ideas that were in your own head before you began doing research, as long as you express those ideas in your own words. *The Golden Rule of Plagiarism* is that if it was not in your own head before starting research, then you must cite it to show where the words or the ideas came from!

IS PARAPHRASING PLAGIARISM?

Paraphrasing is putting information and ideas into other words for the sake of clarity or brevity. Used properly with citations, paraphrasing can be a powerful tool for both explaining ideas and making persuasive arguments. But what constitutes proper and improper use of the paraphrase?

Take the following example of an original text:

The lost-wax casting process (also called *cire perdue*, the French term) has been used for many centuries. It probably started in Egypt. By 200 BCE the technique was known in China and ancient Mesopotamia and was soon after used by the Benin peoples in Africa. It spread to ancient Greece sometime in the sixth century BCE and was widespread in Europe until the eighteenth century, when a piece-mold process came to predominate. -- Marilyn Stokstad, *Art History, Volume Two* (New York, Prentice Hall, Inc. and Harry Abrams, Inc., 1995), 31.

And here is a paraphrase, which does not need quote marks:

The lost-wax casting process is an ancient method for making metal sculpture. While the ancient Egyptians appear to have been its first practitioners, other cultures around the world also developed or imported the technique. Introduced to Europe by the ancient Greeks in the sixth century BCE, lost-wax casting remained an important artistic method up to the eighteenth century (**Stokstad 31**).

Rather than simply restating the text, the author of the paraphrase changes the text to draw out a particular idea and leaves out the details that aren't relevant to the point she's making. Moreover, she adds some clarity by including a short definition of the lost-wax method in her opening sentence. *But most importantly, the author has cited her source by author and page number—as she must, because anytime you use ideas that did not come from your own head you must use a citation....even if you used none of the author's original words!*

TAHS PLAGIARISM POLICY

- ❖ If the offense is blatant [that is, the student has copied more than a few sentences from a text without citations and quote marks] the grade will be a 0 *without a chance to re-do the assignment*.
- ❖ If the offense is marginal [that is, an occasional phrase is copied without attribution or else paraphrased information appears without a citation] then the teacher has the discretion to allow the student to re-do the paper *with a penalty on the final grade to be determined by the teacher*.

Books

Author. Title of Book. City of Publication: Publisher, Year.

Book with only 1 author...

Williams, Tennessee. *A Streetcar Named Desire*. New York: Penguin Group, 1975.

Book with more than 1 author....

Rowe, Richard, and Larry Davis. *The Essential Welder: Gas Metal Arc Welding Classroom Manual*. Albany: Delmar, 2000.

Books with a Corporate Author [published by an agency or an organization]

United States Fish and Wildlife Service, *Growing Plants for Hawaiian Lei*. Honolulu: Univ. of Hawaii Press, 2002.

Web Sites

Author (if available). "Name of Article." Name of Site. Date article was written (if available; if not write "n.d."). Medium of publication (Web). Date of access.

Sherman, Chris, "Everything You Wanted to Know About College."

SearchEngineWatch.org. 4 Sept. 2004. Web. 5 Nov. 2011.

"Legalizing Gambling Lifts a Depressed Town." *CNN.com*. 15 Mar. 2007. Web. 4 June 2010.

Encyclopedias

Author of Article (if given). "Article Title." Title of Book. City of Publication: Publisher, Year.

Lesko, Leonard H. "Pyramids." *The World Book Encyclopedia*. 2001.

Movies

"Title. Screenplay Author. Director. Production Company, Year.

Psycho. Screenplay by Joseph Stefano. Dir. Alfred Hitchcock. Shamley Productions, 1960.

Magazine Articles

Author. Title of Article. Title of Magazine Date: Page (s).

Dominus, Susan. "Why Pretty isn't Pretty Enough Anymore." *Glamour* Jan. 2004: 136-154.

Magazine Ads

Product, An Advertisement in Title of Magazine. Date: Page (s).

Ford Trucks. An Advertisement in *Newsweek*. Jan 4, 2004: 136.

Newspaper Articles

Author. "Title of Article." Name of Newspaper Date, edition: Page (s).

Dominic, Nelson. "Sex Offender Web Site Dabated." *Honolulu Star-Bulletin* 8 Apr. 2004, night final ed: A3.

Song Lyrics

Artist. "Title of Song." Name of Album/CD. Recording Company. Date.

Clapton, Eric. "Layla." *Clapton's Greatest Hits*. Arista Records. 1991.

TV Programs or Commercial

"Title of Episode or Segment." Title of Program or Series. Name of Network. City of Local Station (if any), Broadcast Date.

"Why the Towers Fell." Nova. PBS. KHET, Honolulu. 7 Oct. 2004.

Hanes Underwear for Men. NBC. WJAC affiliate, Johnstown, PA. 7 June 2005.

Interviews

**Person Interviewed. Type of interview (personal, telephone, email, etc).
Date.**

Clinton, Bill. A Personal Interview. *Larry King Live*. CNN. 24 June 2003.

FINDING A BOOK IN THE TAHS LIBRARY

The OPAC is a search engine for the books of the library. Follow the steps below to locate books using the OPAC. The OPAC can be accessed from any computer in the school.

1. Click on the OPAC symbol (Books with Magnifying Glass)
2. A Search Box should appear. Below the search box will be a bar that lists different items to be searched for. You may search for TITLE, AUTHOR LAST NAME, and SUBJECT.
3. Type in what you are looking for and then click on the button for what you are searching for (TITLE, AUTHOR, SUBJECT)
4. Your search results should appear on the screen. "Click" on the item you wish to examine to be taken to screens which provide more information...like the Call Number, Author, Status)

Note: To go back one screen or to do another search use the "ESCAPE" (ESC) button on the top left side of the keyboard!

HOW TO READ A CALL NUMBER TO FIND A BOOK

FIC HEM

Fiction First 3 Letters of Author's Last Name

Located on 2nd floor back wall of the library

ADU FIC CLA

Adult Fiction* First 3 Letters of Author's Last Name

*Must be in 9th grade or above to check out
Located on 2nd Floor Left Hand side

737.65 THO

Nonfiction Dewey Number* First 3 Letter of Author's Last Name

* Use Numbering system on Rows to locate section.

FINDING A MAGAZINE OR JOURNAL ARTICLE USING A SCHOOL COMPUTER DESKTOP

ACCESS PA POWER LIBRARY/EBSCO HOST

ACCESS PA Power Library is a service provided by the state of Pennsylvania to school and public libraries. The Ebsco Host portion of the Power Library provided access to articles from over 2000 magazines. These articles are not available on the web.

Click on the **ACCESS PA Power LIBRARY ICON**. A menu of databases should appear. To access Ebsco Host, look under the General Reference on the right hand side. Click on the **EBSCO Host link**. Another page should come up. Click on the **EBSCO Host link** again. You should come to a page listing different databases to search. The default is **Masterfile Premier** which is the one you will be using. Click on the **“Continue”** link. You should come to a page with a type-in box at the top.

The type-in box works like a normal search engine. Put the terms you wish to search for in the box. Click on “full-text” and then hit the “search” icon. After your results come up, then hit the “periodicals” icon to reduce the results on your return list of sources to magazine and journal articles only.

You can print out the full article on a library or computer lab printer.

Keystone Literature Terminology Cheat Sheet

All-Skills Quiz #1

Affix A prefix or suffix attached to the start or end of a root word to change its meaning [**Antichrist** means *against Christ* and **childish** means *like a child*.]

Allegory A story with symbolic characters and a moral. [In the "Tortoise and the Hare", the hare symbolizes laziness and the tortoise persistence. The race symbolizes the struggle of life. The moral is "persistence wins the race of life."]

Alliteration The repetition of initial sounds in neighboring words. ["the lazy, laughing south"]

Allusion A reference in literature to a familiar person, place, or event. [He's a real Romeo. She thinks she walks on water.]

Antonym A word that is the opposite in meaning to another word. [blame and forgive]

Authoritative vs. Non-authoritative source--Is the writer an **expert** on his subject, and is he a **reliable** source of information?

Bias Taking a **one-sided** approach to change someone's opinion. [Think of biased political ads in which the opponent's viewpoint is never shared unless it is portrayed as evil or faulty in some way. Some believe Fox News has a conservative bias.] Bias is the defining trait of **propaganda**.

Characterization The methods an author uses to show characters and their personalities [appearance, actions, dialogue, thoughts]

Citation--putting the first word that appears in the works cited entry (which may or may not be the author's name) and page # if available after material quoted or borrowed from another source in a research paper. Example: (Helicopters 254) or (Smith 2) or (*Psycho*).

Compare/Contrast A structural or organizational method in an essay to show common and/or differing features.

All-Skills Quiz #2

Conflict/Problem An internal or external problem confronting a character that follows this pattern:

- **Exposition** The beginning of a work that provides background information about the characters and their problems.
- **Rising Action** The part of a story where the problems becomes increasingly complicated.
- **Climax** The turning point in a narrative; the moment when the conflict is at its most intense.
- **Falling Action [or Denouement]** The part of a literary plot that is characterized by diminishing tensions.
- **Resolution** The portion of a story in which the conflict is resolved. [The resolution of "The Tell-Tale Heart" is that the murderer turns himself into the police]

Connotation The suggested meaning of a word [jock = a dumb, cocky athlete]

Consonance Repeating a consonant sound, but not necessarily at the beginning of a word as in alliteration. [The killer was of a sickening ilk.]

Context Clues Words which help reason out the meaning of an unfamiliar word.

Dialect Speech of a region or locale [like *y'all* for the south]

Dialogue Conversation between characters or speakers in story or drama.

Diction An author's word choices, which convey his meaning and tone.

Essential information—details from a reading selection that if changed would affect the over-all meaning or outcome

Explicit Clearly expressed or fully stated in the text. Opposite of **implicit** or **implied**.

All-Skills Quiz #3

Fact A piece of information provided objectively, presented as true.

Figurative vs. Literal language—figurative speech is not meant to be taken literally, or word-for-word [figuratively, to say that my mind was swimming with ideas means that I am very imaginative, but literally it means that my head is wet.]

Flashback An organizational device used in literature to present action that occurred before current (present) time of the story.

Flashbacks are often introduced as the dreams or recollections of one or more characters.

Foreshadowing A hint of an upcoming event in a story

Formal vs. informal usage Language that is characterized by the absence or presence of:

- **contractions** [*do not* vs. *don't*]
- **slang** [*a man* vs. *a dude*]
- **1st or 2nd person references** like *I/you* [*Many people* think abortion is wrong vs. *I* think abortion is wrong]
- **idioms / clichés** [He is *flirting with disaster*. She is so *down to earth*. vs. He is taking an unwarranted risk. She has a firm grasp of reality.]

Generalization A conclusion drawn from specific information used to make a broad statement about a topic or person. [*People today are taller than 100 years ago* or *Society is becoming corrupt*.]

Genre A type or category of literature:

- **Autobiography** A non-fictional, true story of a person's life *written by that person*.
- **Biography** A written account of *another* person's life.
- **Drama** Plays to be performed by actors on stage, radio, or television. Scripts use mostly **dialogue** and **stage directions**. **Monologues** often appear as lengthy speeches in dramas and are spoken by one speaker, either to others or to himself. If spoken aloud to himself, a monologue is called a **Soliloquy**.

- **Essay** A genre of writing centered around a **thesis** and whose goal is usually to **persuade** or **inform**
- **Fiction** Any story that is the product of imagination and meant to entertain—not true and factual. **Elements of Fiction** include characters, settings, plots, themes, symbols.
- **Nonfiction** Text that is not fictional; designed primarily to explain, argue, instruct or describe rather than to entertain. For the most part, its emphasis is factual. **Elements of Nonfiction** include facts, data, charts, graphics, headings.
- **Literary Nonfiction** includes literary elements [like character, setting, and dialogue] that we usually associated with **fiction** to write about real-life persons, places, or events. Examples include biographies and memoirs.
- **Poetry** Writing that present ideas and evokes an emotional experience in the reader through **meter** [the beat of a poem created by series of soft and hard syllables] and **sensory imagery**. Poetry typically relies on words that have several layers of meaning (**figurative language**). Can have a **rhyme scheme** in consistent **stanzas** [ABAB, AABB or ABCB, for example] or appear in non-rhyming **free verse form without stanzas**.
- **Prose** Non-poetic writing—like we see in essays, articles, and stories.

Headings, Graphics and Charts Any visual cues on a page of text that offer additional information to guide the reader's comprehension. Headings typically are words or phrases in bold print that indicate a topic or the theme of a portion of text; graphics may be photographs, drawings, maps or any other pictorial representation; charts (and tables or graphs) condense data into a series of rows, lines or other shortened lists.

Hyperbole An exaggeration or overstatement (*I had to wait forever.*)

Imagery [also known as Sensory Imagery] Descriptive or figurative language in a literary work; the use of language to create sensory impressions.

All-Skills Quiz #4

Implicit Though unexpressed in the actual text, meaning that may be understood by the reader; implied.

Inference A judgment based on reasoning rather than on a direct statement. A conclusion reached by "reading between lines."

Informational Text Nonfiction written primarily to convey factual information. Informational texts comprise the majority of printed material adults read (textbooks, newspapers, reports, directions, brochures, technical manuals).

Irony The use of a word to mean the exact opposite of its literal meaning; a mismatch between the actual result of a sequence of events and the expected result. [The most likely to succeed ends up on welfare and the class clown ends up rich. Also, your mother walks into your messy room and says, "nice."]

Jargon--technical language in a certain field [computer jargon would be "hyperlink" and "phishing"]

Literary Device Tool used by an author or any genre to enliven and provide voice to the text (**dialogue, alliteration, metaphor, hyperbole, irony**).

Literary Element A technique used in either fiction or literary nonfiction (**characterization, setting, plot, theme, tone**).

Literary Movement A historical period of literature marked by common beliefs of that time:

- Late 1800s **Realism**—Bret Harte's "Outcasts of Poker Flat"—authors believed in portraying characters the way they really speak, dress, and act, often showing the brutal and ugly side of life. [A boy's dog dies. He buries it in the mud of a driving rain.]
- Early 1800s **Romanticism**—William Cullen Bryant's "Thanatopsis"—authors conveyed with strong emotion the idea that nature's beauty could teach us valuable lessons about how to live our lives and how to face death. [A boy's dog dies. As he buries it, he is reminded of his own mortality and decides to live life to the fullest.]
- 1920s **Existentialism**—Hemingway's "A Clean, Well-Lighted Place"—authors believed that life was meaningless and that no God existed. [A boy's dog dies. He lets it rot in the yard, curses into the wind that a humane God would not allow such suffering, and hangs himself in the night.]

Main Idea The topic sentence of an essay or paragraph or the theme of a story or poem. Do not confuse this with a minor or supporting idea.

Metaphor The comparison of two unlike things in which no words of comparison (*like* or *as*) are used (e.g., *The speech gave me food for thought.*)

All-Skills Quiz #5

Mood The prevailing emotions or atmosphere of a work, often created by the dialogue, imagery, and setting.

Motif A recurring subject, theme, or idea in a literary work.

Objective vs. Subjective Tone An author keeps an **Objective** tone by refusing to show emotion or to take a biased side, portraying only facts in a logical, even-handed way; a **Subjective** tone shows emotion and opinionated **bias**.

Onomatopoeia Words that imitate sounds, like "snap, crackle, pop"

Opinion A statement based on information that has not been proven to be true but instead on subjective feelings or misinformation

Paradox A contradictory statement that is also true: [The most deprived children are those who are given everything.]

Personification An object or abstract idea given human qualities or human form (*Flowers danced about the lawn.*)

Persuasive techniques Using **emotional appeals** [**pathos**—appealing to fear, humor, bandwagon, self-consciousness], **logical appeals** [**logos**—appealing to statistics, facts, and numbers], or **testimonial appeals** [**ethos**—quotes from experts or famous people] to convince others in writing or in speech to do something.

Plot The events of a story. The plot often involves a conflict experienced by a **protagonist** [a character who has a problem] who is opposed by an **antagonist** [a character who is causing the problem].

Point of view--who tells a story, the narrator type:

- **First person** is a character in the story who can either be **involved** in the action as a main character or **removed** from it as a minor character narrating the events as he perceives them. The narrating character may offer opinions about the action and characters that differ from those of the author; therefore, personal feelings of characters are conveyed more directly and the reader must filter everything said to get to the truth, as in real life. Readers develop a trusting personal rapport with this type of narrator. This narrator cannot report un-witnessed events or enter other characters' thoughts.
- **Third person** narrators can choose to be **omniscient** [reporting everything, *all* characters' thoughts and even un-witnessed events] or **limited** [reporting only what *one* character experiences, without any special insight into other characters' minds or motivations]. These narrators are more objective and trustworthy in reflecting the author's intended opinions.
- **Second person** is when an author calls the reader "you" to make him feel like he is involved in the action as the character.

All-Skills Quiz #6

Position The side you take in an argument that must be supported with evidence [Should Penn State be banned from bowl games for five years? My position is that they should not be.] Also known as an **assertion**.

Primary source--a first-time published or original source used to develop a topic [a survey, court record, diary, literary work, painting, photograph, interview, historical document, statistic]

Progressive and digressive time--telling a story or writing about a topic in chronological or reverse chronological order.

Propaganda Techniques Used to influence people to believe, buy, or do something by presenting an argument in a *biased, one-sided way* to change someone's opinion by *exploiting emotion, faulty logic, and misinformation* in the process. Types include:

- **Overgeneralization, Stereotyping, or "Sweeping Generalization"**-- a statement that goes too far by applying a rule or observation to all cases or occurrences. [White men can't jump. Blacks are less intelligent than whites.]
- **False Analogy**—comparing "apples to oranges" [Doctors use x-rays when they do surgery, so we should be able to use our vocabulary lists on quizzes.]
- **Bandwagon**—urging people to feel a certain way or change their behavior in order to be part of the crowd [Everybody's gambling—why aren't you?]
- **Attacking the Person or Name-Calling**—attacking those who oppose your viewpoint by name-calling [Abortion-supporters are nothing but 1st degree murderers.]
- **Appeal to Emotion**—exploiting people's sense of pity, patriotism, fear, security, morality, cuteness, family closeness, love, humor, etc. [It's un-American and downright un-Christian to oppose the president's war effort.]
- **Circular Reasoning**—a conclusion that is nothing more than a restatement of itself without any real logic or proof [I should be able to go the party because I should be. Ralph Nader is the best candidate for president because he is totally better than all the others. We should outlaw abortion because it aborts a fetus.]

- **Oversimplification**—presenting a too-simple, non-proven solution to a complicated problem [If we just got all them sheet-heads in one place and nuked the hell out of ‘em, this whole terrorism problem would just go away. If we just gave kids a practice PSSA test every day of the year, all of them would be proficient at the end.]
- **Red Herring**—throwing your opponent off of the topic. [Your dad is arguing that your math grade is too low and needs improvement, so you argue, “I did well on my English test” or “My math teacher has really bad breath...and he picks his nose.”]
- **Testimonial**--attempt to persuade the reader by using a famous person to endorse a product or idea (for instance, the celebrity endorsement).
- **Repetition**--attempts to persuade the reader by repeating a message over and over again until people believe it [Keep saying Obama is not a US Citizen or Obama is a Muslim; keep saying ObamaCare until people believe it was his idea—when in reality it was originated by Republicans]
- **Appeal to numbers, facts, or statistics** attempts to persuade the reader with statistics [Propaganda will try to confuse and mislead people with shady statistics (“fuzzy math”) rather than use respected statistics from solid sources]

Purpose The author’s intent: to **inform**, to **narrate / entertain**, or to **persuade**

Satire A literary approach that ridicules those who deserve it, like dishonest politicians or greedy lawyers

Secondary source--books and articles already written and published by other individuals on your topic, thus “not original” since the writer of the source has already borrowed the work of other researchers or writers. [encyclopedias, websites, high school text books, and magazine articles are all secondary sources of information]

Sentence Variety Varying sentence **structures** and **lengths** [using a sentence fragment or simple sentence on purpose to convey fear, or using a run-on sentence or compounds to convey breathless excitement.]

Setting The time and place in which a story unfolds.

All-Skills Quiz #7

Simile--a comparison with *as* or *like* [He’s tough as a nail. She runs like a deer.]

Sound Devices Elements of literature that emphasize sound (**alliteration**, **rhyme**, **onomatopoeia**, **consonance**).

Speaker The voice used by an author to tell/narrate a story or poem. The speaker is often a created identity, and should not automatically be equated with the author. See also **point of view**.

Stage Direction A playwright’s written instructions provided in the text of a play about the setting or how the actors are to move and behave in a play.

Standard vs. Substandard English--proper or improper usage, spelling, mechanics, and grammar [Substandard: He don’t got no money.]

Structure--how an essay's subtopics or a story's / poem's events are organized:

- **chronological** [in time order, as by the four-marking-period structure of the novel *Speak*]
- **cause and effect** [as in the research essay on what subtopic factors lead to teen suicide]
- **comparison or contrast** [as in the Poe and Hitchcock essay, with similar subtopic horror tactics]
- **related anecdotes or examples** [as in subtopic examples of the comedy techniques essay]
- **classification** [as in the ethos, logos, pathos subtopics of the advertising tactics essay]
- **problem and solution** [as in the research essay with subtopic preventatives of child abuse]

Style--the author's distinctive use of words and sentence structures:

- **simple and straightforward** ["I love you."] vs. **wordy and showy** ["I harbor amorous inclinations toward your person."]
- **archaic** ["Thou art my favorite student."] vs. **modern** ["We're gonna rock this joint."]
- **concrete** [sensory word choices and ideas, "Her chocolate hair cascaded down her back."] vs. **abstract** [non-sensory word choices and ideas, "The sum of the squared sides of a right triangle equals the hypotenuse squared."]

Summarize To capture all of the most important parts of the original text (paragraph, story, poem), but express them in a much shorter space, and as much as possible in the reader's own words.

Supporting Details Not the main idea, but points of information in a text that strongly support the main idea of an essay or story.

Symbol--an object representing something, but implied rather than stated [A tree struck by lightning might symbolize an individual struck by severe personal trauma.]

All-Skills Quiz #8

Synonym A word that is the same in meaning as another word (sorrow, grief, sadness).

Syntax The ordering of words into meaningful verbal patterns such as phrases, clauses, and sentences.

Theme--the main idea, moral, or message woven throughout a piece of literature

Thesis--an opinion-based, can-be-argued-both-ways statement of the main point of an essay or article. [Gambling is harmful to society for several reasons.]...*others may argue the opposing thesis that gambling is beneficial to society.*

Tone The attitude of the author toward the characters or subject he's writing about. [sarcastic, proud, complimentary, angry, fearful, **objective** [unemotional and impartial], **subjective**[emotional and biased]

Understatement--the opposite of hyperbole. Your doctor says, "You're *a little* sick." Then he tells you that you have cancer.]

Universal Character A character that symbolically embodies well-known meanings and basic human experiences, regardless of when or where he/she lives (the hero, the villain, the intellectual, the dreamer, the naive youngster, the con man, the helpless damsel, the fool).

Universal Theme A message that is true in stories throughout the ages. [*Good will always triumph over evil* or *We become sadder but wiser as we age* or *Love conquers all.*]

Voice The word choice, style, and tone that convey the personality of the author.

Keystone Composition Terminology Sheet

All-Skills Quiz #9

Active Voice The subject of the sentence performs the action of the verb. e.g., The *man* kicked the can.

Antecedent The word or phrase to which a pronoun refers. e.g., The *students* gave their best performance.

Appositive A word or phrase close to the noun it is modifying. e.g., My neighbor, *Mr. Roberts*, is very quiet.

Argument/Position The position or claim the writer establishes. Arguments must be supported with valid evidence and reasoning and balanced by the inclusion of counterarguments that illustrate opposing viewpoints.

Audience The intended readers of a piece of writing.

All-Skills Quiz #10

Cause/Effect An organizational structure in which the writer analyzes both the reasons leading to and the results of an action, event, or trend.

Compare/Contrast An organizational structure in which the writer places together characters, situations, objects, or ideas to show common and/or differing features.

Conjunction A connecting word. (and, but, so, for, nor, or, yet) connect two equal grammatical structures.
e.g., I swept the floor, *and* Emma loaded the dishwasher.

Content/Meaning The essence and substance—information, ideas, insights, and beliefs—that constitute the body of a written text.

Controlling Idea/Main Idea The writer's central thought and chief topic of a piece of writing.

All-Skills Quiz #11

Conventions of Language Grammar, mechanics (i.e., punctuation, capitalization, and spelling), and language usage.

Counterargument An argument that is in opposition to the claim/position provided in a piece of persuasive writing. It is a means to provide a balance between the claim/position and its opposing views and adds credibility to the writing by allowing a broader range of viewpoints.

Dangling Modifier A dangling modifier is a word or phrase that is not clearly attached to the word or phrase it is modifying. e.g., *At the age of two*, my father took me to the circus.
We were surprised to see a deer *driving down the road*.

Exposition/Expository A form of writing that explains, defines, instructs, or clarifies information.

Focus What the writer establishes as the central point of interest; a quality of writing where all main ideas, details, and examples support and unify the topic.

All-Skills Quiz #12

Fragment A group of words that begins with a capital letter and ends with punctuation but is not a complete sentence because it is missing either a subject or predicate and/or does not express a complete thought. e.g., *When the baby sneezed and coughed.*

Informative A form of writing that is synonymous with expository or explanatory writing; its purpose is to inform.

Irrelevant Details Details—word, phrases, sentences, or information—that are not vital or illustrative to a piece of writing.

Misplaced Modifier A describing phrase that is not placed next to the word that it describes in the sentence. e.g., Please return this book to Mrs. Caldwell’s desk, *which she lent me.*

Organizational Strategies Methods of organization (e.g., chronological, compare/contrast, problem/solution) that establish topic and purpose.

All-Skills Quiz #13

Parallel Structure Putting sentence elements or ideas in similar grammatical form. e.g., The best parts about summer are *swimming, biking, and sleeping.*

Passive Voice The subject of the sentence receives the action of the verb.
e.g., The man *was struck by* lightning.

Persuasion A form of writing that focuses on convincing the reader of stated beliefs or opinions. Strong persuasive writing includes clearly stated positions or opinions, convincing evidence, and anticipated concerns and counterarguments. These methods may include appeals to Emotions [pathos], ethics/trust [ethos], and logic [logos].

Precise Language Specific language and vocabulary that clearly communicate the writer’s ideas to the reader.

Process Analysis Writing that explains how something is done or how something operates; the explanation separates the topic into steps or parts to accommodate the analysis.

All-Skills Quiz #14

Problem/Solution An organizational writing strategy/structure that the writer uses to present a problem and possible solutions to it.

Pronoun Case The function of a pronoun within a sentence. Pronouns change case to form possessives (e.g., *my, his, our*) or to serve as subjects (e.g., *I, he, we*) or objects (e.g., *me, him, us*).

Purpose The writer’s established intent to inform/teach, to entertain, or to persuade/convince.

Redundancy The overuse of certain words, phrases, or details within a piece of writing. This may also refer to repeated statements of already-established ideas.

Relevant Detail A word, phrase, sentence, or detail that is vital and illustrative to a piece of writing. Relevant details support controlling ideas; provide evidence, examples, and reasons; and generally enrich a piece of writing.

All-Skills Quiz #15

Run-On Sentence Two or more complete sentences without correct punctuation or without conjunctions or semicolons to separate them. e.g., The two boys rode their bikes to the park they planned to swim all afternoon.

Sentence Types

A **simple sentence** consists of one full subject/verb set. e.g., I like you.

A **compound sentence** consists of two full subject/verb sets combined with a conjunction or semicolon. e.g., I like you, and you like me.

A **complex sentence** consists of one full subject/verb set and one fragmented subject/verb set. e.g., Because I like you, you like me.

A **compound-complex sentence** consists of two full subject/verb sets [in other words, a complex sentence] and one fragmented subject/verb set. e.g., Because I like you, you like me, but we both hate your mamma.

Style The writer's word choices regarding language, sentence structure, voice, and tone in order to communicate with the reader.

Syntax Word order. e.g. *paradise lost* reverses the syntax of *lost paradise*.

Subject-Verb Agreement A grammatical rule in which the subject of a sentence must agree with its verb in number. e.g., The *women* at the ticket booth *buy* their tickets. The *woman* at the ticket booth *buys* her ticket.

All-Skills Quiz #16

Thesis The basic argument or main idea advanced by a writer—arguable pro and con.

Tone The writer's established attitude toward the audience, the subject, or the work itself.

Topic Sentence A sentence that describes the main/controlling idea that will be developed within an entire essay or within a particular paragraph.

Transitional Words/Expressions Words that provide cues by indicating the various relationships between sentences and between paragraphs (e.g., *in other words*, *for example*, *finally*, *as a result*).

Usage The process that involves choosing and using the correct word in a piece of writing. Common errors in usage are found in comparisons (e.g., *older/oldest*), verbs (e.g., *lie/lay*), and expressions (e.g., *fewer/less*).

Wordiness When a writer uses more words than are necessary to express a point, detail, or explanation (e.g., *due to the fact that* rather than *because*).

1-5

ALL-SKILLS QUIZ 1

abhor	to hate	Hitler abhorred Jews.
ablution	a washing	Baptism is a spiritual ablution.
abridge	to shorten	He abridged his speech for lack of time.
absolve	to free from responsibility	The parents absolved me from housecleaning chores.
abstemious	eating moderately	Dieters eat abstemiously.
abstinence	self-denial	Sexual abstinence may not be fun, but it is safe.
abstruse	hard to understand	Astrophysics is an abstruse subject.
abysmal	extremely bad	A 200 score on the SAT is abysmal—get studying!
accessible	easy to obtain	The toys on the lowest shelf were the most accessible.
acclimate	to adapt	My body gradually acclimated to the hot weather.
2		
acclivity	an upward slope	The Little Engine climbed the acclivity.
accoutrement	equipment	Shoulder pads are a football player's accoutrement.
acerbic	bitter	The critic's remarks were acerbic.
Achilles' heel	a weak point	Chocolate is a dieter's Achilles' heel.
acquiesce	to consent to	I acquiesced to my parents' wish to study more.
acrimonious	bitter in speech	His anti-gay remarks were acrimonious.
adage	a familiar saying	"No pain, no gain"—I love that adage.
adamant	unyielding	My father was adamant about not quitting his smoking.
adept	skilled	The Hall of Famer was adept at passing.
adjudicate	to judge	Judge Judy adjudicated the theft case.
3		
admonish	to warn	Red lights admonish us to stop.
Adonis	an attractive man	The groupies drooled over the rock and roll Adonis.
adroit	skilled	The magician was adroit with his hands.
adulation	praise	The teacher heaped adulation on his "A" students.
aesthetic	pertaining to beauty	I married her for aesthetic reasons—not for love.
affinity	an attraction to	They say opposites have an affinity for each other.
affront	an insult	She slapped him for his rude affront about her weight.
agnostic	one doubting God's existence	The agnostic was torn between hope and hopelessness.
agoraphobia	fear of open places	His agoraphobia caused him to scream in the field.
agrarian	pertaining to farm-life	Warriors Mark is an agrarian community.
4		
alchemy	middle age chemistry	The alchemist tried to turn lead into gold.
alienate	to turn others away	Farting alienates friends.
allay	to calm or soothe	Mommy allayed my fears.
alleged	supposed	The alleged murderer had blood on his hands.
altruism	unselfishness	Martin Luther King was altruistic.
amalgamate	to combine	Dentists amalgamate mercury with more stable metals in fillings.
ambidextrous	skilled with both hands	He dribbled the ball ambidextrously.
ambiguous	open to interpretation	The ending was ambiguous—did they live or die?
ambivalence	conflicting feelings	I love school yet hate it—I'm sort of ambivalent about it.
ambulatory	capable of walking	The patients paced around the ambulatory floor.
5		
amiable	friendly	She smiled at me in an amiable way.
amoral	no sense of right/wrong	Amoral leaders like Hitler cannot see the evil of their ways.
amplify	to make larger	The horror movie only amplified her fear of rats.
anachronism	out of time sequence	The Flintstones had an anachronistic dinosaur as a pet.
anarchy	lack of government	Anarchy broke loose with rioting and flames.
anathema	a curse	A nasty anathema shot from her angry lips.
anecdote	amusing story	His childhood anecdotes were told with great detail.
annals	historical records	We poured through the files of annals at the courthouse.
annuity	a regular payment	Social Security checks are mailed as monthly annuities.
annul	to void a marriage	The Catholic couple annulled their marriage.

6-10

ALL-SKILLS QUIZ 2

antidote	a remedy	Spit and mud are a cheap antidote for a bee sting.
antipathy	a dislike	I have great antipathy for spinach.
antiquated	really old	The yellowed pages of the Bible were antiquated.
aperture	an opening	Don't put your finger over the camera's aperture.
apex	a high point	Friday nights were the apex of the football player's week.
aphorism	a brief saying	"No pain, no gain"—I love that aphorism.
apiary	place where bees are kept	I was stung at the apiary.
aplomb	poise	She danced with great aplomb and was applauded.
apothecary	ancient pharmacist	The apothecary prescribed "eye of newt" for indigestion.
apparition	a ghost	He was frightened by the dead cat's apparition.
7		
approbation	approval	She nodded at me as a sign of approbation.
aptitude	ability	The "A" in SAT stands for "Aptitude."
arable	good for farming	Sinking Valley fields are arable.
archaic	out-dated	"Thou" is an archaic expression.
archipelago	an island chain	Hawaii is an archipelago.
ardent	eager, devoted	I am an ardent Steelers fan.
arduous	difficult	Climbing Mt. Everest is arduous.
aria	an operatic solo	She sang her aria beautifully.
armistice	a truce	Te generals agreed to an armistice.
artifice	trickery, deception	The Trojan Horse was military artifice at its best.
8		
ascetic	self-denying	The ascetic monk ate only bread and water for months.
askew	crooked	That picture is hanging on the wall is askew. Fix it.
assail	to attack	The Republicans assailed the Democrats' proposal.
assay	at attempt	He assayed to speak but couldn't.
assent	to agree	I assented to the voluntary drug test.
assimilate	to absorb into	The exchange student assimilated our language quickly.
assuage	to soothe	Tylenol assuaged her headache pain.
astral	pertaining to the stars	Her goals are almost astral—she's shooting so high!
atone	to make amends	Let me atone for wrecking your car...take some money!
atrophy	to waste away	Her flesh atrophied with anorexia.
9		
audacity	daring, boldness	She had the audacity to flip her boss the bird.
augment	to increase	Reading augments your vocabulary.
augur	to predict	I augured that Tyrone would go undefeated.
august	impressive	The general had an august resume as a leader.
auspicious	favorable	The calm water was an auspicious sign for the sailor.
austere	strict, severe	The Puritans lived by austere rules.
authoritative	dictatorial	Stalin and Hitler were authoritative rulers.
autocratic	dictatorial	Nazi Germany was under autocratic rule.
automaton	a robot	Factory workers often feel like automatons.
bacchanalian	drunken	The fraternity hosted a bacchanalian orgy.
10		
autonomy	self-rule	Good parents gradually give their kids autonomy.
autumnal	declining	At age 56, he was pushing his autumnal years.
avarice	greed	Because of his avarice, the gambler was broke.
aversion	a dislike	Few people have an aversion to chocolate.
aviary	place birds are kept	I was pooped upon at the aviary.
avid	enthusiastic	Avid fans root for their teams even in defeat.
barbarous	uncivilized	Eating with your hands is barbarous.
baroque	extremely detailed in style	The baroque music had zillions of notes.
bauble	a cheap, showy trinket	He gave her a worthless 5-carat bauble.
bawdy	obscene	His bawdy joke got him suspended.

11-15**ALL-SKILLS QUIZ 3**

beguile	to charm	Her eyes beguiled him.
behemoth	a huge beast	The blue whale was a behemoth.
beholden	owing	You saved me—I'm beholden to you.
belligerent	warlike	Tasmanian devils are belligerent creatures.
benevolent	generous	He made a benevolent gesture by donating millions.
benign	harmless	Her tumor was benign, thank goodness.
berate	to scold	Mom berated Billy for stealing the candy.
beseech	to beg	I beseech you to spare my life.
bibliophile	a book-lover	Bibliophiles are hanging out in the library.
bibulous	fond of alcohol	The bibulous crowd gathered at the bar.
12		
bilk	to swindle	My trusted stockbroker bilked me out of millions.
blanch	to whiten	The once-gray sidewalks were blanched by the sun.
blasé	nonchalant, apathetic	Dad called me blasé when I was unconcerned about my F.
bliss	joy	Honeymoons are filled with bliss.
blithe	carefree	Honeymooners seem so blithe in their new-found bliss.
bludgeon	to hit with a club	Then realities like bills and bawling babies bludgeon them.
bogus	phony	He was arrested for his bogus ID.
bombastic	language using "big words"	I was unimpressed with the politician's bombastic speech.
bona fide	genuine	Yes, it's a bona fide diamond!
boon	a huge benefit	Natural gas had been an economic boon to the town.
13		
booty	loot	The pirate shook his booty, even the gold coins.
bourgeoisie	middle class	Chevy is the car of the American bourgeoisie.
bowdlerize	to censor	The bedroom scene was bowdlerized.
brazen	shameless	The nude beach was dotted with brazen sunbathers.
brine	salt water	The brine stung my eyes.
cabal	a secret group	The cabal convened in the cave after dark.
cache	a hidden stash	The cabal had a cache of weapons in the cave.
cacophony	noise	The unturned piano produced cacophony.
cadaverous	corpse-like	Aren't you looking cadaverous with that pasty skin!
cajole	to coax lightheartedly	With humor, she cajoled me into washing her car.
14		
brusque	blunt	Let me be brusque: you're fat.
bucolic	of the countryside	Warriors Mark abounds with bucolic richness.
buffoon	a clown	Cut the buffoon act and get serious.
bulwark	a strong defense	The Great Wall of China was a bulwark against invaders.
burgeon	to flourish	Heavy readers will see their vocabularies burgeon 500%.
burly	muscular	The burly boy benched 350 lbs.
buttress	a support	They buttressed the dam with millions of sand bags.
callow	inexperienced, naïve	Freshmen are so callow they'll believe anything.
calumny	slander	The politician sued the publisher for her calumny.
candor	honesty	That was a bit brusque—but thanks for your candor.
15		
cantankerous	cranky	The cantankerous old English teacher yelled at us.
capricious	impulsive	We were a little capricious and got hitched in Vegas.
carcinogenic	cancer-causing	Cigarettes are carcinogenic.
careen	to swerve	The car careened around the turn and off the cliff.
caricature	an exaggerated portrayal	I look nothing like that—he caricatured my ears!
carnal	sexual	On a hot night, Sylvia surrendered to her carnal impulses.
carouse	to party hard	Wyatt caroused naked until he barfed in the punchbowl.
cascade	to fall like water	Leah's hair cascaded down her back.
castigate	to punish	The child was castigated for throwing the knife.
cathartic	cleansing	The death scene was an emotionally cathartic experience; when I cried all my grief was washed away.

16-20**ALL-SKILLS QUIZ 4**

caustic	sarcastic, corrosive	The critic's remarks were so caustic that the designer cried.
caveat	a warning	Remember this caveat: may the buyer beware!
celerity	speed	His celerity propelled him to the gold medal.
celestial	heavenly	Angels, such celestial creatures!
cessation	a stoppage	The cessation of rain was welcomed by the flood victims.
charisma	personality appeal	Movie stars can succeed on charisma even when talentless.
charlatan	a quack; a fake doctor	That charlatan charged me \$2000 for a useless therapy!
chastise	to punish mildly	The thief was merely chastised; he should have hanged!
cherub	a baby angel	Cherubs, such cuddly celestial creatures!
chicanery	trickery, mischief	Lighting one's farts is such vile chicanery.
17		
chivalrous	courteous and brave	How chivalrous! He saved her life.
choleric	easily angered	The teacher grew choleric with the nasty child.
churlish	unmannerly	Now, now—armpit noises are so churlish!
circuitous	roundabout	I-99 is the least circuitous way to Altoona—it's a straight line.
circumlocution	evasive speaking	Cut the circumlocution and answer me "yes" or "no"!
clairvoyant	psychic, insightful	She had the clairvoyant ability to predict 100% of the scores.
clandestine	secretive	They met in a cave—a clandestine location.
cleave	to split, to cling	Solomon recommended cleaving the baby in two halves.
clemency	mercy	The judge showed clemency and set the thief free on parole.
cloistered	secluded, confined	The nun cloistered herself in her dark room for years.
18		
coalesce	to blend, to fuse	The dance team's moves began to coalesce.
coerce	to force	He coerced me into confessing at gunpoint.
cogent	convincing	The lawyer won the case with his cogent arguments.
cognizant	aware	Smiling, Bill was not cognizant that lightning would hit him.
coherent	logically connected	You need a breath-a-lizer test; your words are not coherent.
colloquial	informal speech	"Youn's" is colloquial for "all of you" in Tyrone.
collusion	conspiracy	The banker and lawyer were guilty of collusion in the theft.
colossal	huge	Jupiter is colossal.
commence	to begin	Your "real" life commences after graduation.
commiserate	to show pity	Let us commiserate with the tsunami victims.
19		
compliant	submissive	Geishas are trained to be compliant servants.
complicity	partnership in crime	Rico was arrested for his complicity in the drug deal.
compunction	remorse	Manson showed no compunction after the murder.
conciliate	to soothe one's anger	Not even my apology could conciliate her wrath.
concise	brief, to the point	Keep the paper concise—only 200 words tops.
conclave	a secret meeting	The terrorist conclave was held in the cave.
condolence	sorrow	I'll send flowers as a sign of condolence.
condone	to approve of	Parents who host beer parties for teens condone drinking.
conduit	a pipe or tube	Water sprayed from the ruptured conduit.
confidant	a trusted friend	I'll tell Kathy only; she's my confidant.
20		
conflagration	a huge fire	The conflagration left a sea of black ash in the forest.
conformity	doing as others do	The Army expects a high degree of conformity.
confounded	confused	I was confounded by the two-page long calculus equation.
congenital	existing at birth	AIDS is a congenital disease.
conglomerate	a corporation	Wal-Mart is a world-wide conglomerate.
conjecture	to guess	Let me conjecture your age—18? License, please.
conjugal	marital	The inmate smiled all through his conjugal visit in cell 53.
connoisseur	an expert	Pedro here is a connoisseur of fine wines.
connubial	marital	The honeymooners basked in connubial bliss.
consternation	confusion	A look of consternation crossed his brow in his physics class.

21-25**ALL-SKILLS QUIZ 5**

contemporary	current	Poe was dead a century ago—he's not contemporary!
contraband	smuggled goods	Diego shuttled the contraband over the border.
contrite	sorry	Johnny was contrite about spilling his milk.
contusion	a bruise	A black and blue contusion swelled on her cheek.
conundrum	a mystery, a puzzle	What do women want? What a conundrum!
convalesce	to heal	Pete convalesced in bed after his auto wreck.
convivial	sociable	The kids in their pumped-up kicks were so convivial.
convoluted	complicated, coiled	The human brain is convoluted in design and intention.
copious	plentiful	There was copious food at the banquet table.
coquetry	flirtation	Her brief touch signaled her coquetry. Game on.

22		
corporeal	bodily	The jellyfish sting inflicted corporeal pain on me.
corpulent	fat	The corpulent dog stumbled over its chubby legs.
coterie	group of close friends	I attended the party with a small coterie of acquaintances.
countenance	a face	Wipe that smirk off your countenance.
covert	secretive	The CIA conducted a covert mission by night.
covet	to desire	The Bible commands that we not covet a neighbor's spouse.
coy	shy	Don't play coy with me—I know you're a wild one.
credulity	gullibility	Because of her credulity, she donated a fortune to this thief!
crescendo	increase in intensity	The music will crescendo into a blast of thunder.
crestfallen	sad	Jill was crestfallen at Jack's funeral.

23		
crux	most vital part of	Vocabulary building is the crux of SAT score improvement.
cryptic	mysterious	The decoders solved the cryptic message.
culinary	of cooking	Culinary arts bring the taste-buds alive.
culminate	to reach a high point	Their wedding culminated in the honeymoon suite.
dawdle	to waste time	Quit dawdling and study!
dearth	a lack	With a dearth of effort, he scored 200 on his SAT.
debacle	a total failure	A 200 SAT score is an utter debacle.
debilitate	to weaken	Too much TV viewing can debilitate your intelligence.
debonair	charming [male]	The debonair prince flattered her with humor.
decadence	moral corruption	Las Vegas is noted for its decadence.

24		
culpable	blameworthy	The bloody-handed thug sure looked culpable.
cumbersome	hard to handle	Juggling a job, a sport, and schoolwork can be cumbersome.
cursor	hasty, quick	He cheated of me with cursory glances at my desk.
curtail	to shorten	The judge curtailed the 10-year sentence to 2 years.
declivity	a down-slope	The meth user was on a moral and emotional declivity.
decorum	proper behavior	Belching reveals your lack of decorum.
decry	to speak against	Obama's critics decried his spending plan.
defection	a desertion	The soldier's defection landed him in military prison.
defile	to corrupt, to pollute	The sewage defiled the water.
defoliate	to strip off leaves	The chemicals defoliated the oaks.

25		
deft	skilled	The pitcher was a deft knuckle-baller.
defunct	no longer in use	Typewriters were made defunct by computers.
deify	to treat like a god	America deifies its athletes.
deluge	a flood	Johnstown was wiped out by the deluge.
demagogue	a popular dictator	Hitler was a demagogue, even a hero, to WWII Germans.
demigod	a half-god	Hercules, son of Zeus with a human mother, was a demigod.
demure	shy	Demurely, she lowered her eyes.
denigrate	to badmouth	The Democrats denigrated the Republicans shamelessly.
denizen	a resident of	Proud or not, we are all denizens of Tyrone.
denouement	the dramatic outcome	A harsh divorce was the denouement of their bitter marriage.

26-30**ALL-SKILLS QUIZ 6**

depraved	immoral	The depraved child molester served life in jail.
depreciate	to lessen in value	Cars depreciate 20% as soon as they leave the dealer's lot.
derelict	negligent, abandoned	The weed-smoking momma was derelict in her duties.
derogatory	belittling	The bully made derogatory Facebook remarks about Roxy.
desecrate	damage a holy place	Vandals desecrated the cemetery by tipping headstones.
desolate	deserted	Death Valley—a desolate place.
despot	a dictator	Stalin was a Russian despot with no conscience.
destitute [of]	lacking; the poor	The man was destitute--destitute of both hope and cash.
detriment	harm	Smoking is a detriment to your health.
devoid [of]	completely without	The idiot was totally devoid of brain cells.

27		
devout	religious	The devout Muslims prayed at noon.
dexterity	manual skill	Baton twirlers have great dexterity.
diabolical	evil	Satan's diabolical plan was fulfilled—death and destruction.
diatribe	bitter criticism	He delivered a scathing diatribe at my art work. I cried.
dichotomy	a two-faceted issue	The rich/poor and conservative/liberal dichotomies are real.
didactic	preachy	My mother and my minister are so didactic about drinking.
diffuse	to spread	The tear gas diffused the crowd.
diligent	hardworking	A-students are diligent about homework completion.
diminutive	tiny	Flies have diminutive feet.
discern	to detect	The detective discerned the key clue for the DNA lab.

28		
discredit	to downplay a success	He discredited our win by saying our opponents sucked.
disdain	to show contempt for	Hitler disdained Jews.
disgruntled	unhappy	Disgruntled postal employees "go postal" if overworked.
disheveled	messy	The wicked breeze left her hair disheveled.
disparage	to belittle	The critic disparaged her art as popular trash.
disparity	an inequality	The disparity between the rich and the poor is growing.
dispel	to get rid of	Ben's mom tried to dispel his fear of the dark.
disseminate	to spread [intangible]	Tara and Lana shamelessly disseminated the rumor.
dissension	disagreement	Bitter dissension split their friendship in two.
dissipate	to slowly waste away	The man's health dissipated after years of fighting cancer.

29		
dissuade	to advise against	I dissuaded her from jumping off the roof.
distraught	emotionally troubled	She was distraught at her father's death.
diurnal	daily	Take your vitamins diurnally.
divergent	varying	The Democrat and Republican had divergent views.
docile	obedient	The docile puppy sat when commanded.
doddering	senile and shaky	The doddering old driver putted down I-99 at 20 mph.
dogmatic	set in one's beliefs	The Islamic terrorist was dogmatic about "infidel" American.
doleful	sad	A doleful mood swept over the funeral parlor.
domicile	a home	He crushed the ants' domicile with his sneaker.
dormant	asleep, inactive	Bears are dormant during most of the winter months.

30		
draconian	harsh and cruel	A draconian penalty for a thief? Cut off his hands!
dregs	the worthless remains	Criminals and welfare bums are the dregs of our society.
drivel	bad poetry	"Roses are red, violets are blue" is pure drivel.
droll	oddly humorous	How droll! Seriously, a squirrel protecting his nuts?
dubious	doubtful	Aliens ate your essay? Hmm, a dubious excuse.
dulcet	sweet-sounding	Ah, such dulcet notes sung by a sparrow.
dupe	to fool	Jack duped me into eating dog pooh.
duplicity	dishonesty	Because of her duplicity, I no longer trust Margo.
duress	under force	He confessed to the crime under the duress of armed guards.
dwindle	to decrease	With the drought, grain supplies dwindled.

31-35

ALL-SKILLS QUIZ 7

ebb	to decrease slowly	After that first loss, their confidence ebbed.
ebullient	enthusiastic	Sam was ebullient after his lottery win.
echelon	a rank of authority	As CEO, he now occupied the highest echelon at GM.
eclectic	a mix of styles	A combo of fifties and modern, her style was eclectic.
ecstatic	very happy	Samantha was ecstatic after Sam gave her his lottery cash.
edifice	a building	The wrecking ball smashed the edifice into dust.
efface	to erase, wipe out	The traumatic event effaced all memory of her childhood.
effeminate	unmanly	Michael Jackson was not gay—just somewhat effeminate.
effervescent	bubbly	Soda is so effervescent it tickles my nose.
egregious	really bad	A fragment is more egregious than a comma error.
32		
elixir	a remedy	Nyquil is an elixir that works for every ailment.
eloquent	skilled with words	MLK was an eloquent voice from the 1960's.
elucidate	to clarify	I'm sorry. Can you elucidate that point with another example?
elusive	hard to catch	Deer are such elusive creatures, until they're on the highway.
emaciated	sickly thin	The holocaust victims were emaciated.
embryonic	in an early stage	Dating for three days, their relationship was embryonic.
eminent	famous	Lincoln was an eminent president, unlike Polk.
emollient	a salve	Chap-stick is a lip emollient.
empathy	understanding others	Dr. Oz empathized with the patient's pain, but without pity.
emulate	to imitate	Infants emulate their parents' facial expressions.
33		
enamored [of]	in love with	Romeo was enamored of Juliet.
encumbrance	a hindrance	My cast is such an encumbrance.
enigma	a mystery	How life evolved is an enigma to many.
enigmatic	mysterious, puzzling	How life evolved is enigmatic to many.
ennui	boredom	After seven years of marriage, ennui set in.
ensue	to result from	Violence ensued after the hockey penalty was called.
enthrall	to charm	Jill enthralled Jack with her lively if not risqué humor.
entomology	study of insects	The entomology center was a-swarm with bugs.
entrepreneur	a business starter	Bill Gates—the ultimate entrepreneur of Microsoft.
enunciate	to pronounce	Slow down and enunciate clearly.
34		
eon	a long time period	Dinosaurs walked the earth eons ago.
ephemeral	short-lived	Their relationship was ephemeral—two days and over.
epicure	a fine-food lover	The epicures gathered for the Food-Network festival.
epilogue	end of a book or play	Finally, I reached the epilogue of <i>War and Peace!</i>
epiphany	a sudden realization	And so I had this epiphany: I wanted to be a doctor!
epitaph	inscription on tomb	His wry epitaph: "I told them I was sick."
equanimity	calmness	He maintained his equanimity in the line of fire.
equitable	fair	The lawyers agreed to an equitable 50/50 settlement.
ergo	therefore	I think. Ergo, I am.
ersatz	artificial, phony	Thanks a lot—this diamond, like your love, is ersatz!
35		
erudite	scholarly	He looks so erudite with his book and reading glasses.
escalate	to increase	Violence escalated after the bad call; players were ejected.
escapade	a reckless adventure	Their escapade got them two fines and a few STD's.
eschew	to avoid	Dieter's eschew fatty foods.
esoteric	not generally known	Is anything more esoteric than 12 th -century Swahili poetry?
etymology	origin of words	The etymology of the f-bomb comes from the German <i>fichen</i> .
euphemism	non-vulgar expression	The "f-bomb" is a euphemism for a much nastier word.
euphonious	sweet-sounding	Sophia's soprano tones were euphonious.
euphoria	joy	The drug gave her only a temporary feeling of euphoria.
exacerbate	to aggravate	Her drug addiction exacerbated her problems at work.

36-40**ALL-SKILLS QUIZ 8**

excruciating	painful	Jill's groin kick was so excruciating that Jack fainted.
exculpate	to free from blame	Jill's lawyer could not exculpate her—five years, no parole.
exemplary	worthy of imitation	No longer was she an exemplary story character for girls.
exhume	to dig up a corpse	She had buried Jack, who was later exhumed by the coroner.
exodus	a departure	Jill made a hasty exodus from town after bail was posted.
exorbitant	excessive	A groin kick was an exorbitant price to pay for love.
expurgate	to censor	These details, of course, were expurgated from the story.
extemporaneous	without preparation	She spoke extemporaneously in court to defend herself.
explicit	very clear	Her details in dismembering Jack were explicit.
extol	to praise	The defense attorney did not extol her character.
37		
extradite	to return a criminal	The rapist was extradited by Ohio police back to Tyrone.
extraneous	not relevant	Her extraneous remarks about her goat were way off topic.
extrapolate	to estimate	Based on current spending, we can extrapolate future costs.
fabricate	to make	You liar, you fabricated that whole story!
façade	outward appearance	A coward at heart, she put on a façade of courage.
facetious	sarcastic	"Nice hair!" she smirked facetiously.
fallacious	misleading	His fallacious "facts" made me believe Obama was Muslim.
fallible	capable of error	Hey, I screwed up...I'm fallible, okay.
fanciful	imaginative	Fairy tales have such fanciful story-lines.
farcical	absurdly funny	That scene was so farcical I nearly peed myself.
38		
extrovert	an outgoing person	Extroverts hang out at bars, introverts at libraries.
exuberant	lively	Little kids are exuberant at Christmas.
exude	to ooze [emotion]	The sprinter exuded confidence at the starting line.
feasible	accomplishable	Let's start now—your plan is feasible.
fecund	fertile	Sinking Valley soil is fecund.
feign	to fake	Ferris Bueller feigned an illness to cut class.
feint	a deceptive motion	The boxer feinted with his left and punched with his right.
felicity	happiness	I wish you much felicity with your new bride Felicity.
felonious	villainous	Hitler's motives were felonious.
fervent	devoted	Fervent fans are there--10-0 or 0-10.
39		
fidelity	faithfulness	He divorced the tramp for her lack of fidelity.
firmament	the sky	In Genesis, God creates the land, sea, and firmament.
flagellate	to whip	Feeling guilty, he flagellated himself with metal barbs.
flagrant	scandalous	Murder is more flagrant than jaywalking.
flail	to whip	The swimmer flailed his arms but slowly drowned.
flamboyant	showy	Wearing sequins and ostrich feathers is way too flamboyant.
fleece	to swindle	The shady minister fleeced his congregation out of \$50,000.
flippant	too unconcerned	"It just a car," she said flippantly, after wrecking dad's BMW.
florid	fancy, flowery	Her florid handwriting had lots of curlicues and loops.
flotsam	floating wreckage	The Titanic survivors clung to flotsam in the waves.
40		
flux	a state of change	The teen years are characterized by massive flux.
foment	to stir up trouble	The rebels fomented the peoples' anger, causing a riot.
foray	an attack	The CIA conducted a nighttime foray on the crack-house.
forbearance	patience	Maintaining forbearance is tough in times of stress.
forebode	to warn about	A psychic forebode the singer's tragic death.
formidable	to be feared	Tyrone's defense is formidable.
fortitude	courage	Fighting back demands intestinal fortitude.
fortuitous	lucky	How fortuitous! Four-leaf clover!
franchise	a special privilege	American blacks secured the voting franchise before women.
fraternal	brotherly	I felt a fraternal bond with my art teacher.

41-45

ALL-SKILLS QUIZ 9

fraudulent	dishonest	Her fraudulent checks landed her in jail.
frenetic	frantic, wild	The crowd grew frenetic before the World Series game.
gadfly	an annoying person	Go away, don't be such a gadfly!
gallant	brave and courteous	The knight charged the dragon gallantly on his steed.
gambit	a strategy	The double-date is a relationship gambit that can backfire.
gamut	a range or extent	SAT scores run the gamut from 200 to 800.
gargantuan	huge	Whoa, size 16? Your feet are gargantuan.
garish	gaudy, too showy	A prom gown to English class?—that's a bit garish.
garnish	to decorate a plate	The chef garnished the plate with a drizzled swirl of sauce.
gauche	socially awkward	Going to the prom with your 1 st cousin? How gauche!
42		
frugal	thrifty	Frugal shoppers choose Dollar General.
furtive	stealthy	Jack stole a furtive glance at Jill's cleavage.
fusion	a merging	The new Jaguar is a fusion of power and deign.
genealogy	family history	You can use sites like <i>ancestry.com</i> to trace your genealogy.
genre	an art classification	Country, rock, and hip-hop are all modern music genres.
genteel	mannerly	Opening doors for the ladies—a genteel gesture.
gentry	the upper class	The gentry drove by in their shiny Rolls-Royces.
germane	relevant	All details in an essay must be germane to the topic.
gerontology	study of the elderly	Epworth Manor employs a full-time gerontologist.
gesticulation	a wild arm gesture	He gesticulated to hail the cab.
43		
gild	gold-covered	The ring was almost worthless—gilded, but not solid gold.
gingerly	cautiously	He gingerly inched across the mine field.
gist	the main idea	The details are not important—just get the gist.
glean	to gather	He gleaned tons of research for his paper.
glib	smooth-talking	Slick Eddie, that glib salesman, sold me this useless car.
glower	to glare at	The minister glowered at Kyle when he farted in church.
glutton	an over-eater	Five cheeseburgers? Don't be such a glutton!
gnome	a dwarf	The Travelocity gnome lost his pointy hat.
gothic	ghostly, medieval	Poe wrote gothic tales of horror, much like King.
grandiloquent	pretentious speaking	His grandiloquent speaking style masked his real stupidity.
44		
grandiose	impressive	Going 10-0 is a grandiose feat.
gratuitous	unnecessary	The movie was rated NC-17 for its gratuitous sex.
gregarious	sociable	Extroverts tend to be gregarious.
grotesque	freakish	The carnival featured animals with grotesque deformities.
grovel	to beg, lower oneself	Grovel for your life or I'll shoot!
guile	trickery	Ulysses' guile was evident in his Trojan Horse scheme.
guise	a false appearance	Drop the guise of concern! I know you couldn't care less.
gullible	easily deceived	Freshmen are so gullible—it's like taking candy from a baby.
gumption	courage	The soldier summoned all his gumption for the charge.
gustatory	taste-related	Visiting Hershey Park is a gustatory pleasure.
45		
hackneyed	overused expression	"That's life" is such a hackneyed expression.
haggard	worn-out looking	The old man looked haggard after the marathon.
haggle	to bargain over price	I haggled the used car salesman down to \$500.
halcyon	calm	The halcyon waters promised smooth sailing.
hapless	unlucky	We named our one-legged dog Hapless.
harbinger	sign of what's coming	The first robin--a harbinger of spring!
harlequin	a clown	The harlequin lost his red nose.
haughty	cocky	What do you call a stuck-up model? A haughty hotty!
haven	a safe place	After the storm, the ship sought a haven from the waves.
hearth	fireplace	Add some wood to the hearth, please.

46-50

ALL-SKILLS QUIZ 10

hedonist	a pleasure-seeker	The hedonist was found drunk and naked in the bushes.
heedless	careless	How heedless to drive while texting!
heterogeneous	dissimilar	All-girl classes are heterogeneous.
heinous	brutal	It was a heinous murder, the head tossed in the trash.
herculean	difficult	Climbing Mt. Everest is a herculean task.
heresy	an immoral belief	He was expelled from the church for his heresy.
hermetic	airtight	Tuna is sealed in hermetic cans.
hierarchy	a ranking	He climbed to colonel in the military hierarchy.
histrionic	overly dramatic	Don't be so histrionic! Pulling a Band-aid can't hurt that bad.
hoi polloi	the common people	The wealthy scoffed at the hoi polloi.
47		
homily	a sermon	The priest delivered his homily.
hubris	arrogance	Driven by hubris, he waved his #1 finger in the end zone.
ichthyology	study of fish	The ichthyologist smelled fishy.
icon	an idol	Michael Jackson was a pop icon—now he's just a dead one.
iconoclast	a tradition-breaker	An iconoclast, he skipped college and made millions his way.
idiosyncrasy	a personality quirk	Watch his idiosyncrasy—the eyebrow twitches when he eats.
igneous	of fire	Igneous forces in the volcano forged new rocks.
ignoramus	a jerk	That ignoramus just flipped me the bird!
illicit	illegal	Cocaine is illicit.
imbibe	to drink	Don't imbibe if you're gonna drive.
48		
hyperbole	exaggeration	"I'm so embarrassed I could die!" she hyperbolized.
hypochondriac	one with imagined ills	The doctor tired of seeing the hypochondriac weekly.
immaculate	spotless	My reputation is immaculate, I assure you.
imminent	about to happen	The bombs were released; death was imminent.
immunity	freedom from harm	Go ahead, mock me—I've developed immunity to jackasses.
immutable	unchangeable	Not even diamonds are immutable—they once were coal!
impale	to stab through	I shall impale you on my sword.
impalpable	not able to be sensed	He didn't sweat, stutter, or shake; his fear was impalpable.
impeccable	flawless	Her 2400 SAT performance was impeccable.
impecunious	penniless	Poor, poor, impecunious me! Not a cent to my name.
49		
impel	to urge	Coach Franco impelled his weary squad to victory.
impending	about to happen	The mushroom cloud signaled their impending doom.
impermeable	impenetrable	The 12-foot-thick walls were impermeable.
impetuous	hasty	He eloped for an impetuous Las Vegas wedding.
impetus	a stimulus	His father's advice was the impetus for his career choice.
implacable	merciless	The butcher attacked the hog with implacable fury.
implicit	implied	Why must he say it—his love for you is implicit in this gift.
impotent	powerless	Jack was impotent to bring his dog back to life.
impropriety	improper behavior	Dating the boss is a first-degree impropriety.
Impunity [with]	free from punishment	The inmate flipped off the warden with impunity.
50		
inadvertent	unintentional	She can't hide her love; she smiles inadvertently around him.
inane	ridiculous	The dog ate it? Really? That's an inane excuse.
incapacitated	disabled	The fallen tree incapacitated the electric lines.
incarnate	in the flesh	Jill is success incarnate.
incendiary	causing fire	Her incendiary remarks reignited the feud.
incessant	non-stop	24/7—she talks incessantly.
inclement	merciless	Inclement weather battered the coast with 80 mph winds.
incognito	in disguise	We went to the Halloween party incognito.
incorrigible	rowdy	An incorrigible class drove the teacher to an early retirement.
incredulous	disbelieving	Jill was incredulous when Jack confessed his affair with Joan.

51-55

ALL-SKILLS QUIZ 11

indefatigable	untiring	Working 24/7, Jack was indefatigable.
indelible	cannot be erased	Your love has left an indelible mark on me.
indigent	poor	Please feed the indigent.
indolent	lazy	Get off the couch, you indolent bum.
indomitable	unbeatable	Superman is indomitable—unless you have some kryptonite.
inebriated	drunk	Inebriated behind the wheel, he was asking for trouble.
infallible	incapable of error	Catholics believe the Pope is infallible in moral judgments.
infantile	immature	Armpit noises, really? How infantile!
infinitesimal	tiny	Atoms are infinitesimal.
infirmity	a weakness	Due to his infirmity, the heart patient wheezed up the stairs.
52		
inimical	unfriendly	Iran and North Korea are inimical to us citizens.
inimitable	cannot be imitated	Big Ben's #1 pass efficiency rating is inimitable.
inkling	a hint	I had no inkling that she was cheating on me.
innocuous	harmless	Sniffing Elmer's glue is totally innocuous.
innuendo	a naughty suggestion	"What's up?" Jill asked. "I am," Jack said with sly innuendo.
insatiable	cannot get enough	My cat's desire for catnip is insatiable.
inscrutable	mysterious	It's inscrutable to me why the good suffer and the evil thrive.
insidious	cannot be trusted	Insidiously, she kissed him with the knife in her hand.
insolent	disrespectful	That insolent bastard flipped me the bird!
insurrection	a rebellion	The rebels waged an insurrection with knives and axes.
53		
integral	essential	Vocabulary-building is an integral part of SAT success.
interim	meantime	It's raining; in the interim, let's play some poker.
interminable	endless	Watching a clock makes a boring class seem interminable.
intermittent	periodic	The rain was intermittent, so the game was still played.
intimate [v]	to imply	She intimated with a wink and a smile that she liked him.
intolerant	bigoted	The KKK is intolerant of blacks and Jews.
intractable	unmanageable	I need a new conditioner; my hair is so intractable.
intrepid	fearless	Intrepidly, he led us into battle.
intrinsic	essential	An intrinsic part of SAT success is vocabulary building.
introvert	unsociable person	An introvert, Jill sat in a dark corner during the party.
54		
intuitive	non-logically insightful	How'd she know I was staring at her? Must've been intuitive.
inundate	to flood	All seven of my teachers inundated me with homework.
invincible	unbeatable	Superman is not 100% invincible; kryptonite weakens him.
invulnerable	cannot be injured	Achilles was invulnerable everywhere but at his heel.
irascible	cranky	That irascible old codger shook his cane at me.
ire	anger	He spat at me, igniting my ire.
iridescent	multi-colored	The oil made iridescent swirls in the puddle.
irksome	annoying	Swat that irksome fly!
irreconcilable	unable to agree	They divorced; their differences were irreconcilable.
itinerant	traveling	The itinerant preacher traveled from church to church.
55		
jargon	technical language	Hypertext? Slow down and explain all that computer jargon!
jaundiced	yellowish or prejudiced	The baby's skin was jaundiced, unlike its interracial mom.
jaunty	confident	He spiked the ball with a jaunty dance in the end zone.
jeopardy	danger	Pray! Your life is in jeopardy.
jettison	to throw overboard	The captain jettisoned all the cargo as the ship tilted.
jingoism	war-hungry patriotism	With bombs on full display, North Korea is openly jingoistic.
joyful	jolly	Santa laughed jovially.
judicious	wise	It's judicious to have kids <i>after</i> you graduate from college.
juggernaut	a destructive force	The U.S. nuclear arsenal is the world's greatest juggernaut.
labyrinthine	complicated	Her explanation was so labyrinthine I could not understand.

56-60

ALL-SKILLS QUIZ 12

jugular	key vein of the throat	Don't mess with Jill; she'll go for the jugular.
juxtapose	to place side-by-side	She juxtaposed the salt and pepper shakers.
kaleidoscopic	constantly changing	The pace of change during the teen years is kaleidoscopic.
kleptomania	compulsive stealing	The kleptomaniac did it for the rush, not for the bracelet.
knell	a funeral bell	The knell sounded sadly beyond the cemetery hill.
knoll	a small hill	The marathoner climbed the knoll with relative ease.
lament	to mourn	We lament MLK's death in January.
lampoon	to satirize	<i>SNL</i> , like Steven Colbert, lampoons stuffy politicians.
languid	sluggish	We felt languid in the early morning heat.
languish	to weaken	The milers languished in the 100-degree heat.
57		
lascivious	lustful	Jill eyed Jack with lascivious intent.
lassitude	weariness	But after a long day at work, Jack with struck with lassitude.
latent	hidden	Jill harbored latent suspicions about his long hours at work.
laudable	praiseworthy	While laudable that he was "#1 Employee", she missed him.
legerdemain	sleight of hand	Through some romantic legerdemain, was he cheating?
lethargic	sluggish	He had seemed so lethargic at home lately, almost lifeless.
leviathan	a sea monster	Jill's jealousy surfaced like a great leviathan from the deep.
libation	a drink	"A little libation to unwind?" she offered him a shot of rum.
licentious	sexually immoral	"I'll fix you, you licentious player," she thought.
Lilliputian	tiny	A Lilliputian drop of strychnine would take care of dear Jack.
58		
linguistic	of language	Fluent in ten languages, she was a linguistic wizard.
lionize	treat like a celebrity	America: where they lionize athletes and degrade teachers.
litigation	lawsuit	Fearing litigation, we cancel school with an inch of snow.
livid	pale	Scrooge turned livid when he saw the ghost.
loathe	to hate	I loathe static on the radio.
loquacious	talkative	Shut your pie-hole, and stop being so loquacious.
lucid	understandable	Can you explain that in a more lucid manner?
lucrative	profitable	Law and medicine are two lucrative professions.
ludicrous	ridiculous	Her tardy excuse was ludicrous—late because of aliens?
lunacy	insanity	Lunacy compelled Norman Bates to taxidermy his mother.
59		
macabre	gruesome	A disembodied head? What a macabre sight!
Machiavellian	deceitful	With Machiavellian intent, he hid the shank in his sleeve.
maelstrom	a whirlpool	The maelstrom sucked the ship into its vortex.
magnanimous	generous	Giving to the Salvation Army is a magnanimous gesture.
malady	a disease	Cancer is a more treatable malady these days.
malevolent	evil	The gunman approached the teller with malevolent intent.
malignant	deadly	Malignant tumors require aggressive chemotherapy.
malleable	adaptable	Kids are more malleable than old farts set in their ways.
manacle	a handcuff	The cops slapped the manacles on him.
mandate	to command	The king mandated that his subjects kiss his feet.
60		
luxuriant	extravagant	Life at the palace was luxuriant.
manifest	to exhibit	The soldier manifested his courage by charging ahead.
manifold	many	The lame reasons why kids drop out of school are manifold.
maritime	of the sea	Boston is a maritime city, as is Baltimore.
martyr	person suffering for a cause	Christ was a martyr, as are Islamic suicide bombers.
masochist	a pain-lover	The masochist smiled as she burned her hand.
masticate	to chew	Please masticate quietly; I can hear you way over here.
maudlin	overly sentimental	You're so maudlin. I mean, who still cries over <i>Bambi</i> ?
mausoleum	a large tomb	They enshrined King Tut in a massive mausoleum.
meager	insufficient	There was meager food to last through the winter.

61-65

ALL-SKILLS QUIZ 13

meander	to wander	Without a compass, we meandered for days in the forest.
medley	a mixture	Their performance was a medley of rock, country, and jazz.
mellifluous	sweet-sounding	How mellifluous was her soprano voice!
melodramatic	over-acted	Don't be so melodramatic! It's only a paper cut.
menagerie	a zoo	Here's my menagerie—a goat, two pigs, and seven cats.
mendicant	a beggar	His gambling left him a penniless mendicant.
mercenary	working for money	The U.S. Army is a mercenary force; our soldiers are paid.
mercurial	fickle, moody	Jill can be so mercurial--hopeless yesterday, hopeful today.
meteorology	study of weather	The meteorologist predicted rain.
meticulous	very careful	He takes two hours to get ready—such a meticulous dresser.
62		
microcosm	a miniature world	High school life is a microcosm of society as a whole.
migratory	wandering	Geese are migratory birds.
miniscule	tiny	Bats have miniscule eyes.
minutia	trivial details	Your job is vital! Your fantasy football? Now that's minutia.
mire	a swamp	She was trapped in the mire of a bad marriage.
mirth	happiness	This gift brings mirth to my heart.
miscreant	a villain	Dr. Doom is a devious miscreant.
misogynist	a woman-hater	A misogynist assassinated the Women's Rights leader.
mnemonic	of memory	"Roy G. Biv" is a mnemonic device for rainbow color recall.
mogul	a powerful person	Bill Gates, a true mogul, uses his power for noble purposes.
63		
mollify	to pacify	The pacifier mollified the angry toddler.
monastic	self-denying, of monks	He neither drank nor ate, adopting a monastic lifestyle.
moratorium	a delay	The rain forced a moratorium on the playoff game.
mordant	sarcastic	Satirist Jon Stewart has a mordant sense of humor.
morose	depressed, sad	The morose crowd trudged from the cemetery.
nadir	a low point	200—the nadir of SAT scores!
narcissistic	vain	He's so narcissistic he can't look away from the mirror.
nascent	newly begun or born	In its nascent stage, their new home was still just a blueprint.
naught	nothing	We lost—our efforts were for naught!
nebulous	hazy, uncertain	I have no idea what I want to do—my future is so nebulous.
64		
motif	a central theme or idea	Love is perhaps the most common motif in poetry.
motley	diverse, assorted	Lawyers, liars, and scholars, our Congress is a motley crew.
mottled	spotted	Her skin was mottled from years in the sun.
mutinous	rebellious	The pirates glared mutinously at their captain.
myopic	short-sighted	It's myopic to drop out of school to pursue that \$8.00/hr job.
myriad	many	They traveled myriad directions: north, east, south, and west.
nefarious	wicked	The good sing in heaven; the nefarious dance in hell.
nemesis	a tough adversary	Bellwood is Tyrone's traditional football nemesis.
neophyte	a beginner	A neophyte to drugs, Johnny thought a joint was a connector.
nepotism	hiring relatives	What nepotism! Nearly everyone here is related to the boss.
65		
nirvana	a happy place of nothingness	His nirvana allowed him to forget the suffering of others.
nocturnal	of the night	Owls and bats are nocturnal creatures.
nomenclature	a system of naming	We are " <i>homo sapiens</i> " in the biological nomenclature.
<i>non sequitur</i>	poor logic	"I stink; therefore, you stink" is a blatant <i>non sequitur</i> .
obdurate	stubborn	The obdurate old man would not quit smoking.
obese	really fat	Childhood obesity is on the rise in fast-food America.
obfuscate	to confuse	All of her big words only obfuscated her directions.
oblique	indirect	"Do you love me?" "Define love," he answered obliquely.
obliterate	to destroy	The A-bomb obliterated Nagasaki.
oblivious	unaware of	Jack was oblivious to the fact that Jill was cheating on him.

66-70

ALL-SKILLS QUIZ 14

nonchalant	unconcerned	Jill was nonchalant in telling Jack she wrecked his SUV.
notorious	famous for bad reasons	"You're nothing but a notorious texter!" he shouted.
novice	a beginner	A novice behind the wheel, Jill had been driving only a week.
noxious	harmful	Her texting habits on the interstate were especially noxious.
nugatory	worthless	Now, Jack's crumpled SUV was a nugatory lump of steel.
numismatist	a coin collector	Jack got his mind off the wreck by taking up numismatics.
nuptial	marital	This new hobby relaxed Jack and relieved his nuptial stress.
obscure	unclear or not famous	For some obscure reason, he loved rare coins more than Jill.
obsolescent	no longer in use	To him, Jill was as obsolescent as a \$2 bill.
obstinate	stubborn	Obstinately, Jack ignored Jill's promises to trash her I-phone.
67		
odyssey	a long journey	It's quite an odyssey from New York to Hong Kong.
offal	human waste	Who farted? It reeks of offal in here.
ominous	threatening	Ominous clouds shrouded the sky in blackness.
omnipotent	all-powerful	The King was omnipotent, or so he thought!
omniscient	all-knowing	An omniscient narrator can read every character's mind.
omnivorous	all-eating	We are omnivorous, eating both flesh and plant.
onerous	burdensome	Living with a Siamese twin is quite onerous.
onus	a burden	The onus for graduating must be on the student's shoulders.
opaque	non-transparent	The fog was so opaque we nearly wrecked.
opiate	a feel-good drug	Communists cynically call religion "the opiate of the people."
68		
optimum	the best	For optimum results, sleep well before taking the SAT.
opulent	luxurious	The billionaire lived an opulent lifestyle.
orifice	an opening	The orifice of the cave was blocked by rocks.
ornate	fancy	Ornate lacework decorated her collar.
ornithology	study of birds	The pigeon crapped on the ornithologist.
orthography	spelling	The incorrect orthography of "a lot" is "alot".
oscillate	to swing	Her mood oscillated between rage and calm.
ossify	to become bone	Calcium and vitamin D ossify in the human body.
ostentatious	showy, boastful	He danced ostentatiously in the end zone after the TD.
overt	in the open, unhidden	Not one to keep silent, Jack professed his love to her overtly.
69		
pacify	to calm down	The mother pacified the child by rocking her gently.
palatable	good-tasting	This pie is beyond palatable—it's downright yummy.
palatial	like a palace	Jeeves served as butler in a palatial residence.
pallid	pale	She turned pallid with fear.
palpable	can be felt or sensed	With the bleachers shaking, the excitement was palpable.
pandemonium	chaos	Pandemonium broke loose, with ten soccer fans trampled.
paradox	seeming contradiction	It's a paradox that "less is more"; yet it's often true.
paragon	a model of perfection	Cindy, you're a paragon of honesty.
paramount	the most important	Vocabulary building is paramount to SAT success.
pariah	an outcast	He was treated like a pariah, kicked and spat upon by all.
70		
parlous	dangerous	Snake charming—a parlous hobby.
parody	mocking via imitation	Weird Al parodies everyone, from Nirvana to the Amish.
parsimonious	miserly	Scrooge was parsimonious, treasuring his wealth.
pastoral	of the countryside	He painted pastoral scenes of Warriors Mark farms.
pathogenic	causing disease	Asbestos and lead are both pathogenic substances.
pathos	pity	The scene where Bambi's mom gets shot evokes pathos.
paucity	a lack of	That idiot suffers from a paucity of brains.
pecuniary	of money	Roxanne's love was dispensed for purely pecuniary reasons.
pedant	a know-it-all	What a pedant! Does he have to use 15-letter words?
pedestrian	ordinary	Teachers, unlike rock stars, live rather pedestrian lifestyles.

71-75

ALL-SKILLS QUIZ 15

pellucid	transparent	Her motives were so pellucid I could see right through them.
penchant	a strong liking for	Bibliophiles have a penchant for rare books.
penury	poverty	The homeless live in endless penury.
perdition	hell	Go to perdition, you fiend!
peregrinate	to travel	We peregrinated to Europe last summer.
perfunctory	done just as routine	Jack's kiss was passionless, given in a perfunctory way.
perilous	dangerous	Danger—that cliff is quite perilous.
permeate	to spread through	The virus permeated the entire network.
pernicious	deadly	A pernicious beast stalked the dark woods.
perpetuate	to cause to continue	Praise and practice help to perpetuate success.
72		
persevere	to endure	The hikers persevered through the cold and the rain.
pertinent	relevant	Her remarks were not at all pertinent to the assigned topic.
peruse	to read carefully	Peruse everything before you sign on the bottom line.
pessimist	one who sees the bad	A pessimist, Jill saw only Jack's flaws.
petrology	study of rocks	The petrology major died in the landslide.
philander	a womanizer	Hugh Heffner is nothing but a philandering scumbag.
philanthropy	charity	The AIDS Foundation is one of Bill Gates' philanthropies.
piety	morality	The Puritans seem pious to us but were lewd in their day.
pillage	to rob violently	The Vikings pillaged the village with fire and axes.
pinnacle	a high point	Graduation is the pinnacle of your school days.
73		
pithy	brief and to the point	"Haste makes waste"—such pithy advice.
placate	to calm one down	I placated the crying baby with a little whiskey on his pacifier.
placebo	fake medicine	That's not real pain killer—it's just a placebo.
placid	peaceful	After the storm, the lake water was once again placid.
plagiarism	stealing other's work	He got an F for his shameless plagiarism.
platitude	an empty cliché	"America wants change!" is just another political platitude.
platonic	spiritual	My love for her was more platonic than romantic.
plethora	an abundance	A plethora of food was spread on the banquet table.
pliant	flexible, adaptable	The gymnast was so pliant that her heels touched her ears.
poignant	tear-jerking	It's a poignant moment when Old Yeller dies.
74		
polychromatic	many-colored	The triple rainbow was a polychromatic miracle.
polytheism	belief in many gods	The ancient Greeks were polytheistic.
ponderous	heavy, burdensome	The guilt of matricide was too ponderous for Norman to bear.
portentous	threatening	The swirling black funnel cloud was a portentous sign.
posthumous	occurring after death	Babe Ruth was inducted into the Hall of Fame posthumously.
potable	drinkable	Free of bacteria, our water is quite potable.
potent	powerful	A potent virus wiped out the entire nation.
precarious	dangerous	Tread carefully on this precarious cliff.
precipice	a cliff	The Roadrunner pushed the Coyote off the precipice.
precocious	early-maturing	The e-Trade baby is quite precocious.
75		
predilection	a preference for	You should go into math with your predilection for numbers.
prelude	an introductory part	Consider this rose is a prelude to a beautiful relationship.
premeditate	to plan ahead	The murderer had premeditated the crime in cold detail.
premonition	a forewarning	Her bad dream was a premonition that she would lose.
preposterous	ridiculous	The police dismissed the thief's preposterous alibi.
pretentious	putting on airs	The Joneses are so pretentious with their Rolls Royces.
prevaricate	to lie	The witness prevaricated, even though he swore on a Bible.
primordial	ancient, original	Dinosaurs once walked these primeval woods.
pristine	pure	The snow was pristine, until black slush spoiled it.
privation	a lack of	They suffered privations of food and water.

76-80

ALL-SKILLS QUIZ 16

privy to	access to a secret	I was privy to the real reason she killed herself—drug use.
proclivity	a tendency	Anorexics have a proclivity to be unrealistic.
procrastinate	to delay	The bird that procrastinates does not get the worm.
prodigal	wasteful	Hybrid cars are less prodigal with gas than are gas-guzzlers.
prodigious	enormous, important	The SAT at 5 hours is the most prodigious national exam.
progeny	descendants	Darwin theorized that we are the progeny of apes.
proletarian	of the working class	The proletarian revolt was aimed at the wealthy landowners
promiscuous	sexually loose	On the corner, Roxy had a promiscuous reputation.
promontory	a cliff	The Indians chased the buffalo over the promontory.
propensity	a tendency	Baseball pitchers have a propensity to spit on the mound.
77		
propriety	proper behavior	Lacking propriety, the pupils flipped off the teacher.
prosaic	dull, ordinary	Unlike a rock star, a teacher lives a relatively prosaic life.
prostrate	lying flat	The dying soldier lay prostrate on the rocks.
protean	changeable	Her characters were protean--not static, as in <i>Sponge-Bob</i> .
protégé	teacher's star student	Ah, my protégé, another A+ for you!
protocol	proper procedures	Military protocol demands that you salute a superior officer.
prototype	the first of its kind	The Model-T was the prototype for today's cars.
proWess	power or skill	His writing prowess landed him a position with <i>Time</i> .
prudence	wisdom	Prudence urged him to invest the Lotto jackpot for college.
prurient	obscene	The raunchy DVD had several prurient scenes.
78		
pseudonym	a fake name	"Mark Twain" was Samuel Clemens' pseudonym.
puerile	childish	How puerile! Squirting milk out of your nose, really?
pugilist	a boxer	Muhammad Ali—the world's greatest pugilist of all time.
pugnacious	eager to fight	Call off that pugnacious pooch of yours or I'll shoot him.
punctilious	careful about details	Punctiliously, she ran her essay through spell-check twice.
purge	to purify	Hitler believed that his holocaust would purge the gene pool.
puritanical	strict and harsh	Curfew at 8 PM? How puritanical!
pusillanimous	cowardly	The lion in Oz was so pusillanimous.
pyromaniac	an arsonist	A pyromaniac set the fire.
pyrrhic victory	a high-cost success	It's a pyrrhic victory—we won, but we lost our star player.
79		
quaff	to gulp	He quaffed the water in one swig.
quagmire	a swamp	Jack was sinking in a quagmire of a relationship gone bad.
quail	to shrink with fear	He quailed from the approaching army and retreated.
quasi-	seeming, fake	You quasi-Christian--thumping a Bible, cheating on the wife.
quell	to calm down	The teacher quelled the riotous class with soft music.
query	a question	The reporters delivered several queries to the president.
raiment	a flowing garment	Zeus' glowing raiment shimmered in the sun.
rambunctious	rowdy	Don't run with scissors, you rambunctious child!
rampant	widespread	Drugs are rampant on college campuses.
rancid	rotten	Yuk, that milk smells rancid. Throw it out.
80		
queue	a line of people	A queue of fans lined up outside the crowded theatre.
quibble	a petty argument	Why are we quibbling over a mustard bean?
quintessence	essence of something	The artist captured the quintessence of Lincoln on canvas.
quip	a witty remark	"Take my wife...please," the comedian quipped.
quixotic	impractical, idealistic	Colonizing Mars? What a quixotic idea.
rancor	resentment	Unemployment intensified the rancor among the voters.
rapproach	a close relationship	Jack had a trusting rapproach with Jill.
ratify	to approve	Congress ratified the bill and sent it to the president.
ratiocinate	to reason	Don't be rash! Ratiocinate through the pros and cons.
rational	sensible	The cop believed him because his explanation was rational.