

College Entrance Exams (SAT and ACT)

College Admissions, College Rankings

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Michael Goodman has tutored for College Entrance Exams for 18 years. He is currently the SAT and ACT teacher at Ossining High School. He has presented the Kaplan course, the ESC course, and his own courses for SAT and ACT at Ossining HS, Irvington HS, Hastings HS, Somers HS, Mamaroneck HS and Walter Panas HS, and at Community Centers, Pace University, and other sites.

He is a math professor at Westchester Community College, where he teaches College Algebra, Quantitative Reasoning, and the History of Mathematics. His textbook on the early history of mathematics was published by Wiley in 2016.

He has assisted the Yale University Admissions Office by doing alumni interviewing.

He has privately tutored hundreds of Westchester students.

Programs / presentations are described on the next two pages. Some are aimed primarily for students, some are for parents, and some are for students and parents together. The length of any program is flexible. Lectures with Q & A generally run an hour or 90 minutes. Sessions where the students work on test questions can run longer.

Should You Take the SAT, the ACT or Both?

A discussion of how the tests differ and how those differences favor certain kinds of students.

18 ACT Questions You Can Answer

Students get an 18-page handout; each page describes a type of question, tells the student what to look for, and shows a solid strategy that any student can use to solve that type of question.

18 SAT Questions You Can Answer

Similar to the ACT talk described above, although of course using SAT question types.

Math Tricks for the SAT

A potpourri of techniques, shortcuts, tips and traps that will lead to many extra points on the SAT math section.

Verbal Tricks for the SAT

Similar to the Math talk, except of course using questions and strategies for the Reading and Writing & Language sections of the SAT.

Getting Through the ACT Science Section

An intensive classroom style workout on a full Science Section (40 questions) from an actual past ACT test, with answers reviewed at the end.

15 Things Parents Can Do to Raise Their Children's SAT Scores

Some surprising suggestions about building SAT skills (the best games to play, the best TV shows to watch, the best magazine to read). And some more conventional suggestions about tutoring, studying, test prep books, and practice.

What Does Harvard Really Want?

College Admissions is mostly a nightmare for Westchester students trying to get into the best schools. Based on statistics made public by these exclusive colleges, and “tell all” books by former college admissions officers, this talk gives a realistic estimate of any student’s chances.

Understanding the College Rankings

Attendees get handouts ranking the top colleges by factors that measure the quality of their academic programs, the quality of their student bodies, and even the pizzazz of their reputations. The flaws and pitfalls of the traditional annual college rankings are described.

Relax, it’s Only the PSAT

A calming presentation for nervous students about to take their first test. Practice questions are demonstrated.

Going After the National Merit Scholarship

The hype about the PSAT is that, besides being a practice for the SAT, it is a make-or-break barrier for getting a National Merit Scholarship. How that program works and what kinds of questions separate the winners from the honored semi-finalists are discussed.

Around the World in 80 Minutes

Students get a list of topics that appear most frequently in the question stems and multiple choice answers of the New York State Regents Exam in Global History and Geography. When presented in a longer format, this talk includes a standard 50-question quiz.

Topics in Regents Chemistry

A review of some of the areas students find most difficult, like nuclear decay and chemical bonds. Students get to use about 20 tables of chemical and physical data when they do this test, and how to use those tables effectively is covered.