



How to Use
PSAT/NMSQT[®]
Results to Improve
Your School's
Performance
Through Pre-AP[®]
and SAT Professional
Development[™]

**(Critical Reading
and Writing Skills)**

**Coordinating the PSAT/NMSQT
Summary of Answers and Skills
(SOAS) Report and Your Teachers'
Professional Development Needs.**

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How to use this document

This document is designed to make explicit the relationship of skills measured by the PSAT/NMSQT® and particular teaching strategies found in various Pre-AP® Professional Development workshops. Pre-AP is PSAT/NMSQT professional development.

Begin by obtaining your PSAT/NMSQT Summary of Answers and Skills (SOAS) report at collegeboard.com/reports (pictured below). The SOAS allows you to analyze aggregate test question information and makes it easy to take a closer look at the level of your students' academic skills when they took the PSAT/NMSQT. The report compares the performance of your students to a comparable group of students in your state and the nation. One special feature of the SOAS is the aggregate skills data based on your students' performance on the PSAT/NMSQT. Provided for each test section, the Analysis of Performance on Skills shows your students' academic strengths and areas in need of improvement. Any skills in which your students performed below (to the left of) the Nation or State should probably be reviewed. For individual skills (represented by a letter and a number, M04, CR04, or W4, for example) that need to be strengthened, **use the grid in this document to determine which Pre-AP and/or SAT Readiness Program™ workshops address the skill areas**. The grid should also prove helpful in determining skill

combinations that need to be strengthened, and workshops that address these combinations. Use the suggestions to determine workshop solutions for your school or district's teacher professional development needs. For help with these determinations, or to bring this professional development to your site, consult your College Board regional office.

Pre-AP Professional Development (Pre-AP) is a suite of K–12 professional development resources and services. The purpose of Pre-AP is to equip all middle and high school teachers with the strategies and tools they need to engage their students in active, high-level learning, thereby ensuring that every middle and high school student develops the skills, habits of mind, and concepts needed to succeed in college.

For more information on **PSAT/NMSQT Skills**, please visit collegeboard.com/psat.

For more information on **Pre-AP Professional Development**, or to search for a workshop or conference near you, visit apcentral.collegeboard.com.

For recommended workshop sequences for your school, please contact your regional office.

SAMPLE SCHOOL (00000)
SATURDAY FORM: CLASS OF 2006

PSAT/NMSQT SUMMARY OF ANSWERS AND SKILLS 2004

PSAT/
NMSQT™

SUMMARY OF ANSWERS AND SKILLS PSAT/NMSQT SOAS REPORT 2004

SAMPLE SCHOOL (00000) CLASS OF 2006

This online SOAS Report details the performance of 242 students from the 11th grade. This report provides a closer look at the level of your students' skills when they took the PSAT/NMSQT this past October. The comparative information can give you valuable insights into your students' performance and assist in identifying curriculum needs to address academic weaknesses that may have been identified through this assessment.

This report keeps the focus on student skills as it analyzes answers across each grade of students, providing insights into how well students are understanding and applying the skills taught in your curriculum. When shared with teachers, especially as a companion to the Student Data on Disk (comprehensive data, including the responses of each student to every question, that can be shared with teachers at a classroom level), this report can inform the instructional needs within the classroom.

What Is Included?

This report is divided into three sections representing the academic areas tested: Critical Reading (pages 2–6), Math Reasoning (pages 7–11), and Writing Skills (pages 12–16). Within each area, the information is shared from three different perspectives: an analysis of correct answers; an analysis of incorrect answers; and a comparative analysis of skills.

These analyses will include comparisons with the nation's performance, the state's performance and a comparable group's performance. (Comparable group is a statistically created group—virtual group—that illustrates your group's expected performance on each question. As a result, it makes it easy for you to identify areas where your students performed above, or below, what would have been expected of a group with your school's performance profile.)

PSAT/NMSQT® Critical Reading

Questions:

Reading skills are fundamental for college success. Critical reading questions focus on a student's ability to read critically: to think logically, analyze, and evaluate.

Sentence Completions

Sentence completion questions require students to follow the logic of an idea expressed in a fairly complex sentence. Sentences are given with one or two words omitted. The correct answer is the word or set of words that, when placed in the blank, best fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole. Although these questions are meant to test a student's ability to recognize logical relationships among elements of a sentence, some questions measure vocabulary in the context of the sentence.

Passage-Based Reading

Passage-based reading questions measure a student's ability to read, understand, and interpret reading passages. These passages are drawn from a variety of fields, including the humanities, social studies, and natural sciences. Passages may also be excerpted from works of fiction. The selections will vary in style and may include narrative, argumentative, and expository elements. Passages are usually drawn from actual published works, though this material is often adapted for testing purposes. Passages will range in length from about 100 to 850 words and will often include an introduction and/or footnotes. Some questions will be based on a pair of passages on a shared theme or issue. Questions may ask students to do the following:

- Understand significant information in the passage
- Figure out the meaning of a word from its context
- Analyze and evaluate ideas, opinions, and arguments
- Make inferences and recognize implications
- Understand the tone of what is being said
- Understand the use of examples
- Recognize the purpose of various writing strategies

- Relate one part of a passage to another part
- Determine an author's purpose or perspective
- Distinguish conflicting viewpoints
- Make connections between different parts of a passage
- Compare or contrast ideas in a passage or in a pair of related passages

PSAT/NMSQT Writing Skills Questions:

Writing skills questions present sentences and paragraphs that contain the kinds of errors that students must look for and learn to correct in their own writing.

Improving Sentences

These questions require students to select the most effective form of a sentence.

Identifying Sentence Errors

These questions ask students to find errors in grammar, sentence construction, or sentence punctuation, as well as inappropriate usage.

Improving Paragraphs

These questions relate to a flawed draft of an essay. Most questions require students to consider revisions in the context of the essay and to think about the interrelationships of sentences and paragraphs.

Pre-AP®/SAT Readiness Program™ Workshops

1. Pre-AP: Topics for AP Vertical Teams® in English

This workshop addresses the following PSAT/NMSQT critical reading and writing skills:

- Understanding
 - Main ideas in a reading passage (CR1)
 - Tone (CR2)
 - Use of examples (CR4)
 - Difficult vocabulary (CR11)
 - Complex sentences (CR13)
 - Sentences that deal with abstract ideas (CR17)
 - Words in an unusual context (CR18)
 - Structure of sentences with unfamiliar vocabulary (W6)
 - Complicated sentence structures (W7)
 - Structure of long sentences (W8)
 - Structure of sentences with abstract ideas (W9)
 - Structure of sentences that relate to the arts (W11)
- Recognizing
 - Connections between ideas in a sentence (CR14)
 - A definition when it is presented in a sentence (CR16)
 - Logical connections within sentences (W3)
- Applying ideas presented in a reading passage (CR6)
- Determining an author's purpose or perspective (CR7)
- Making connections between information in different parts of a passage (CR8)
- Distinguishing conflicting viewpoints (CR9)
- Comprehending long sentences (CR19)
- Choosing a correct answer based on the meaning of the entire sentence (CR20)

2. Pre-AP: Advanced Topics for AP Vertical Teams in English—Grammar

This workshop addresses the following PSAT/NMSQT writing skills:

- Understanding
 - Structure of sentences with unfamiliar vocabulary (W6)
 - Complicated sentence structures (W7)
 - Structure of long sentences (W8)
 - Structure of sentences with abstract ideas (W9)
 - Structure of sentences that relate to science or math (W10)
 - Structure of sentences that relate to the arts (W11)

- Recognizing
 - Logical connections within sentences (W3)
 - Improper pronoun use (W5)
- Being precise and clear (W1)
- Following conventions in writing (W2)
- Using verbs correctly (W4)

3. Pre-AP: Strategies in English—Beyond Acronyms: Inquiry-Based Close Reading

This workshop addresses the following PSAT/NMSQT critical reading and writing skills:

- Understanding
 - Main ideas in a reading passage (CR1)
 - Tone (CR2)
 - Use of examples (CR4)
 - Difficult vocabulary (CR11)
 - Sentences that deal with abstract ideas (CR17)
 - Words in an unusual context (CR18)
 - Complicated sentence structures (W7)
 - Structure of long sentences (W8)
 - Structure of sentences with abstract ideas (W9)
 - Structure of sentences that relate to the arts (W11)
- Recognizing
 - Purpose of various writing strategies (CR5)
 - Connections between ideas in a sentence (CR14)
 - Words that signal contrasting ideas in a sentence (CR15)
 - Logical connections within sentences (W3)
- Comparing and contrasting ideas presented in two passages (CR3)
- Applying ideas presented in a reading passage (CR6)
- Determining an author's purpose or perspective (CR7)
- Making connections between information in different parts of a passage (CR8)
- Being thorough (CR10)
- Comprehending long sentences (CR19)
- Being precise and clear (W1)

4. Pre-AP: Strategies in English—The Five-S Strategy for Passage Analysis

This workshop addresses the following PSAT/NMSQT critical reading skills:

- Understanding
 - Main ideas in a reading passage (CR1)
 - Tone (CR2)
 - Use of examples (CR4)
 - Complex sentences (CR13)
 - Sentences that deal with abstract ideas (CR17)
 - Words in an unusual context (CR18)
- Recognizing
 - Purpose of various writing strategies (CR5)
 - Connections between ideas in a sentence (CR14)
 - Words that signal contrasting ideas in a sentence (CR15)
 - A definition when it is presented in a sentence (CR16)
- Applying ideas presented in a reading passage (CR6)
- Determining an author’s purpose or perspective (CR7)
- Making connections between information in different parts of a passage (CR8)
- Being thorough (CR10)
- Comprehending long sentences (CR19)

5. Pre-AP: Strategies in English—Reading to Write

This workshop addresses the following PSAT/NMSQT critical reading and writing skills:

- Understanding
 - Main ideas in a reading passage (CR1)
 - Difficult vocabulary (CR11)
 - Complex sentences (CR13)
 - Words in an unusual context (CR18)
 - Complicated sentence structures (W7)
 - Structure of long sentences (W8)
 - Structure of sentences with abstract ideas (W9)
 - Structure of sentences that relate to the arts (W11)
- Recognizing
 - Purpose of various writing strategies (CR5)
 - Connections between ideas in a sentence (CR14)
 - A definition when it is presented in a sentence (CR16)
 - Logical connections within sentences (W3)
- Applying ideas presented in a reading passage (CR6)
- Making connections between information in different parts of a passage (CR8)

- Distinguishing between conflicting viewpoints (CR9)
- Being thorough (CR10)
- Comprehending long sentences (CR19)
- Being precise and clear (W1)

6. Pre-AP: Strategies in English—Rhetoric

This workshop addresses the following PSAT/NMSQT critical reading and writing skills:

- Understanding
 - Main ideas in a reading passage (CR1)
 - Tone (CR2)
 - Use of examples (CR4)
 - Difficult vocabulary (CR11)
 - How negative words, suffixes, and prefixes affect sentences (CR12)
 - Complex sentences (CR13)
 - Sentences that deal with abstract ideas (CR17)
 - Words in an unusual context (CR18)
 - Sentences that deal with scientific ideas (CR21)
 - Structure of sentences with unfamiliar vocabulary (W6)
 - Complicated sentence structures (W7)
 - Structure of long sentences (W8)
 - Structure of sentences with abstract ideas (W9)
 - Structure of sentences that relate to science or math (W10)
 - Structure of sentences that relate to the arts (W11)
- Recognizing
 - Purpose of various writing strategies (CR5)
 - Connections between ideas in a sentence (CR14)
 - Words that signal contrasting ideas in a sentence (CR15)
 - A definition when it is presented in a sentence (CR16)
 - Logical connections within sentences (W3)
- Comparing and contrasting ideas presented in two passages (CR3)
- Applying ideas presented in a reading passage (CR6)
- Determining an author’s purpose or perspective (CR7)
- Making connections between information in different parts of a passage (CR8)
- Distinguishing between conflicting viewpoints (CR9)
- Being thorough (CR10)
- Comprehending long sentences (CR19)
- Being precise and clear (W1)

7. Pre-AP: Strategies in English—Writing Tactics Using SOAPStone

This workshop addresses the following PSAT/NMSQT critical reading and writing skills:

- Understanding
 - Main ideas in a reading passage (CR1)
 - Tone (CR2)
 - Complex sentences (CR13)
 - Sentences that deal with abstract ideas (CR17)
 - Sentences that deal with scientific ideas (CR21)
 - Complicated sentence structures (W7)
 - Structure of long sentences (W8)
 - Structure of sentences with abstract ideas (W9)
 - Structure of sentences that relate to the arts (W11)
- Recognizing
 - Purpose of various writing strategies (CR5)
 - Connections between ideas in a sentence (CR14)
 - Words that signal contrasting ideas in a sentence (CR15)
 - Logical connections within sentences (W3)
- Comparing and contrasting ideas presented in two passages (CR3)
- Applying ideas presented in a reading passage (CR6)
- Determining an author’s purpose or perspective (CR7)
- Making connections between information in different parts of a passage (CR8)
- Being thorough (CR10)
- Comprehending long sentences (CR19)
- Being precise and clear (W1)
- Following conventions in writing (W2)

8. Pre-AP: Advanced Topics for AP Vertical Teams in Social Studies—Developing Reading Habits

This workshop addresses the following PSAT/NMSQT critical reading skills:

- Understanding
 - Main ideas in a reading passage (CR1)
 - Tone (CR2)
 - Use of examples (CR4)
 - Difficult vocabulary (CR11)
 - Complex sentences (CR13)
 - Sentences that deal with abstract ideas (CR17)
 - Words in an unusual context (CR18)
- Recognizing
 - Purpose of various writing strategies (CR5)
 - Connections between ideas in a sentence (CR14)
 - A definition when it is presented in a sentence (CR16)

- Applying ideas presented in a reading passage (CR6)
- Determining an author’s purpose or perspective (CR7)
- Making connections between information in different parts of a passage (CR8)
- Distinguishing conflicting viewpoints (CR9)
- Being thorough (CR10)
- Comprehending long sentences (CR19)

9. Pre-AP: Interdisciplinary Strategies—Argumentation and the Writing Process

This workshop addresses the following PSAT/NMSQT critical reading and writing skills:

- Understanding
 - Main ideas in a reading passage (CR1)
 - Use of examples (CR4)
 - Complex sentences (CR13)
 - Sentences that deal with abstract ideas (CR17)
 - Complicated sentence structures (W7)
 - Structure of long sentences (W8)
 - Structure of sentences with abstract ideas (W9)
 - Structure of sentences that relate to the arts (W11)
- Recognizing
 - Purpose of various writing strategies (CR5)
 - Connections between ideas in a sentence (CR14)
 - Words that signal contrasting ideas in a sentence (CR15)
 - Logical connections within sentences (W3)
- Comparing and contrasting ideas presented in two passages (CR3)
- Applying ideas presented in a reading passage (CR6)
- Determining an author’s purpose or perspective (CR7)
- Making connections between information in different parts of a passage (CR8)
- Distinguishing conflicting viewpoints (CR9)
- Being thorough (CR10)
- Comprehending long sentences (CR19)
- Being precise and clear (W1)

10. Pre-AP: Interdisciplinary Strategies for English and Social Studies

This workshop addresses the following PSAT/NMSQT critical reading and writing skills:

- Understanding
 - Main ideas in a reading passage (CR1)
 - Tone (CR2)
 - Use of examples (CR4)
 - Difficult vocabulary (CR11)
 - Complex sentences (CR13)
 - Sentences that deal with abstract ideas (CR17)
 - Complicated sentence structures (W7)
 - Structure of long sentences (W8)
 - Structure of sentences with abstract ideas (W9)
 - Structure of sentences that relate to the arts (W11)
- Recognizing
 - Purpose of various writing strategies (CR5)
 - Connections between ideas in a sentence (CR14)
 - Words that signal contrasting ideas in a sentence (CR15)
 - A definition when it is presented in a sentence (CR16)
 - Logical connections within sentences (W3)
 - Improper pronoun use (W5)
- Comparing and contrasting ideas presented in two passages (CR3)
- Applying ideas presented in a reading passage (CR6)
- Determining an author's purpose or perspective (CR7)
- Making connections between information in different parts of a passage (CR8)
- Distinguishing conflicting viewpoints (CR9)
- Being thorough (CR10)
- Comprehending long sentences (CR19)
- Being precise and clear (W1)
- Following conventions in writing (W2)
- Using verbs correctly (W4)

11. SAT Readiness Program: Animating Student Writing Workshop

This workshop addresses the following PSAT/NMSQT critical reading and writing skills:

- Understanding
 - Main ideas in a reading passage (CR1)
 - Tone (CR2)
 - Use of examples (CR4)
 - Difficult vocabulary (CR11)

- Complex sentences (CR13)
- Sentences that deal with abstract ideas (CR17)
- Complicated sentence structures (W7)
- Structure of long sentences (W8)
- Structure of sentences with abstract ideas (W9)
- Structure of sentences that relate to the arts (W11)
- Recognizing
 - Purpose of various writing strategies (CR5)
 - Connections between ideas in a sentence (CR14)
 - Words that signal contrasting ideas in a sentence (CR15)
 - Logical connections within sentences (W3)
 - Improper pronoun use (W5)
- Comparing and contrasting ideas presented in two passages (CR3)
- Applying ideas presented in a reading passage (CR6)
- Determining an author's purpose or perspective (CR7)
- Making connections between information in different parts of a passage (CR8)
- Distinguishing between conflicting viewpoints (CR9)
- Being thorough (CR10)
- Comprehending long sentences (CR19)
- Being precise and clear (W1)
- Following conventions in writing (W2)
- Using verbs correctly (W4)

12. SAT Readiness Program: Writing Preparation Workshop for ESL/ELL Students

This workshop addresses the following PSAT/NMSQT writing skills:

- Understanding
 - Structure of sentences with unfamiliar vocabulary (W6)
 - Complicated sentence structures (W7)
 - Structure of long sentences (W8)
 - Structure of sentences with abstract ideas (W9)
 - Structure of sentences that relate to the arts (W11)
- Recognizing
 - Logical connections within sentences (W3)
 - Improper pronoun use (W5)
- Being precise and clear (W1)
- Following conventions in writing (W2)
- Using verbs correctly (W4)

K-12 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS											
PSAT/NMSQT STANDARD	Pre-AP: Topics for AP Vertical Teams in English	Pre-AP: Strategies in English—Beyond Acronyms: Inquiry-Based Close Reading	Pre-AP: Strategies in English—The Five-S Strategy for Passage Analysis	Pre-AP: Strategies in English—Reading to Write	Pre-AP: Strategies in English—Rhetoric	Pre-AP: Strategies in English—Writing Tactics Using SOAPStone	Pre-AP: Advanced Topics for AP Vertical Teams in Social Studies—Developing Reading Habits	Pre-AP: Interdisciplinary Strategies—Argumentation and the Writing Process	Pre-AP: Interdisciplinary Strategies for English and Social Studies.	SAT Readiness Program: Animating Student Writing Workshop	PSAT/NMSQT: “How To Improve” Advice for Students; Workshop(s) on the left with checkmark provide additional strategies for teachers.
CRITICAL READINGSKILLS											
CR1 Understanding main ideas in a reading passage	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Read the passage carefully and try to determine the author’s overall message. Practice making distinctions between the main idea and supporting details.
CR2 Understanding tone	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	When reading, consider how an author’s choice of words helps define his or her attitudes. Pay attention to the way in which tone conveys meaning in conversation and in the media.
CR3 Comparing and contrasting ideas presented in two passages	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Read editorials that take opposing views on an issue. Look for differences and similarities in tone, point of view, and main idea.
CR4 Understanding the use of examples	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Authors often include examples in their writing to communicate and support their ideas. Read different kinds of argumentative writing (editorials, criticism, personal essays) and pay attention to the way examples are used. State the point of the examples in your own words. Use examples in your own writing.
CR5 Recognizing the purpose of various writing strategies	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Writers use a variety of tools to achieve their effects. While you read, look for such things as specific examples, quotations, striking images, and emotionally loaded words. Think about the connotations of specific words and why the author might have decided to use them.
CR6 Applying ideas presented in a reading passage	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	When you read, try to determine the author’s ideas and assumptions and then think about how they might apply to new situations.
CR7 Determining an author’s purpose or perspective	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Authors write for a variety of purposes, such as to inform, explain, or convince. When you read, try to determine why the author wrote what he or she wrote.

K-12 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS											
PSAT/NMSQT STANDARD	Pre-AP: Topics for AP Vertical Teams in English	Pre-AP: Strategies in English—Beyond Acronyms: Inquiry-Based Close Reading	Pre-AP: Strategies in English—The Five-S Strategy for Passage Analysis	Pre-AP: Strategies in English—Reading to Write	Pre-AP: Strategies in English—Rhetoric	Pre-AP: Strategies in English—Writing Tactics Using SOAPStone	Pre-AP: Advanced Topics for AP Vertical Teams in Social Studies—Developing Reading Habits	Pre-AP: Interdisciplinary Strategies—Argumentation and the Writing Process	Pre-AP: Interdisciplinary Strategies for English and Social Studies.	SAT Readiness Program: Animating Student Writing Workshop	PSAT/NMSQT: “How To Improve” Advice for Students; Workshop(s) on the left with checkmark provide additional strategies for teachers.
CRITICAL READINGSKILLS											
CR8 Making connections between information in different parts of a passage	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Work on figuring out the relationship between the material presented in one part of a reading passage and material presented in another part. Ask yourself, for example, how facts presented in the beginning of a magazine article relate to the conclusion.
CR9 Distinguishing conflicting viewpoints	✓				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	When reading, practice summarizing main ideas and noting sentences that mark transition points. Learn to understand methods of persuasion and argumentation. Expand your reading to include argumentative writing, such as political commentary, philosophy, and criticism.
CR10 Being thorough		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Don't just pick the first answer choice you see that looks tempting. Be sure to evaluate all the choices before you select your answer, just as you would read an entire paragraph rather than assume its meaning based only on the first sentence.
CR11 Understanding difficult vocabulary	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	Broaden your reading to include newspapers and magazines, as well as fiction and nonfiction from before the 1900s. Include reading material that is a bit outside your comfort zone. Improve your knowledge of word roots to help determine the meaning of unfamiliar words.
CR12 Understanding how negative words, suffixes, and prefixes affect sentences					✓						When reading, pay attention to the ways in which negative words (like “not” and “never”), prefixes (like “un” and “im”), and suffixes (like “less”) affect the meaning of words and sentences.
CR13 Understanding complex sentences	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Ask your English teacher to recommend books that are a bit more challenging than those you're used to reading. Practice breaking down the sentences into their component parts to improve your comprehension. Learn how dependent clauses and verb phrases function in sentences.

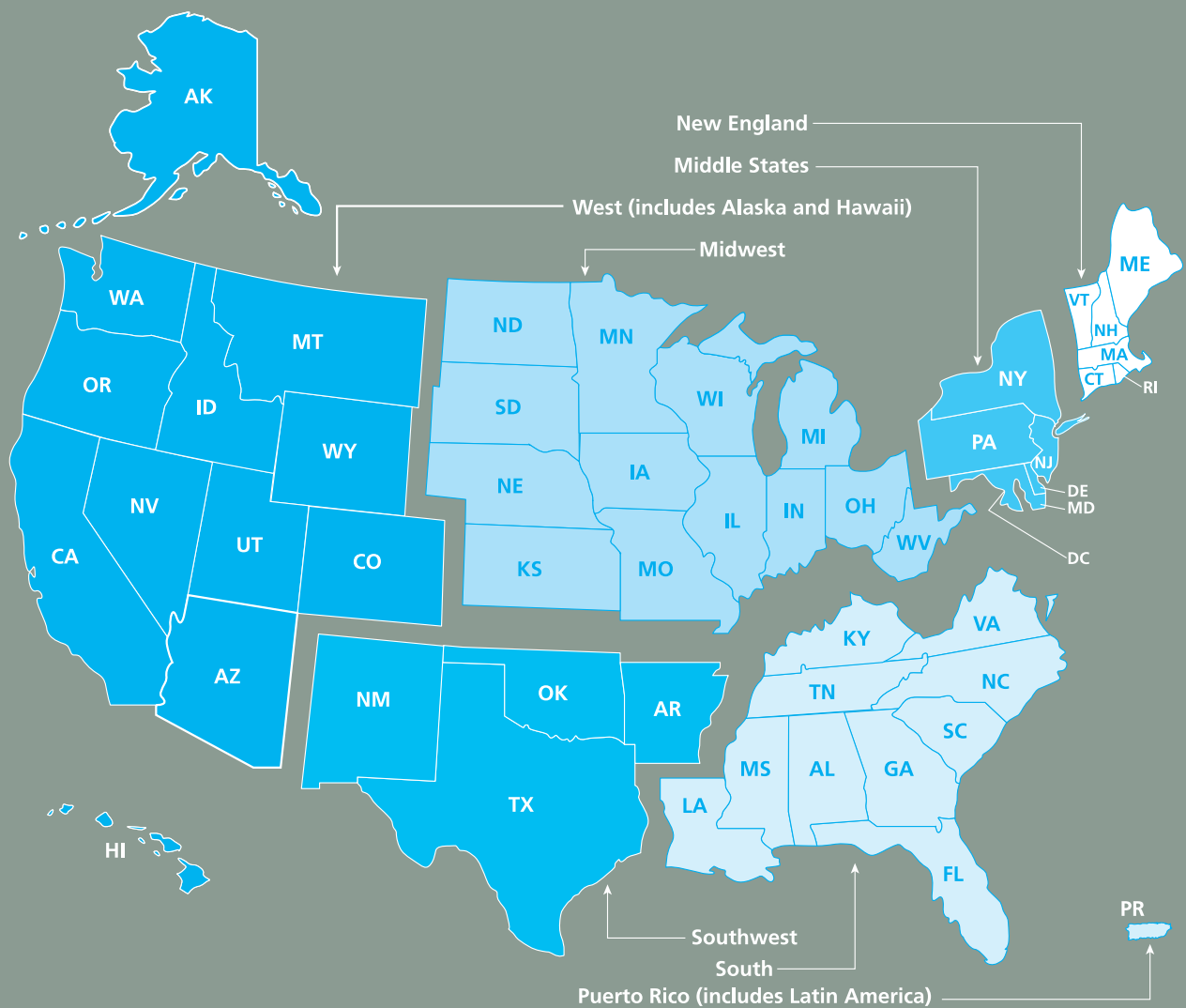
K-12 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS											
PSAT/NMSQT STANDARD	Pre-AP: Topics for AP Vertical Teams in English	Pre-AP: Strategies in English—Beyond Acronyms: Inquiry-Based Close Reading	Pre-AP: Strategies in English—The Five-S Strategy for Passage Analysis	Pre-AP: Strategies in English—Reading to Write	Pre-AP: Strategies in English—Rhetoric	Pre-AP: Strategies in English—Writing Tactics Using SOAPStone	Pre-AP: Advanced Topics for AP Vertical Teams in Social Studies—Developing Reading Habits	Pre-AP: Interdisciplinary Strategies—Argumentation and the Writing Process	Pre-AP: Interdisciplinary Strategies for English and Social Studies.	SAT Readiness Program: Animating Student Writing Workshop	PSAT/NMSQT: “How To Improve” Advice for Students; Workshop(s) on the left with checkmark provide additional strategies for teachers.
CRITICAL READINGSKILLS											
CR14 Recognizing connections between ideas in a sentence	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Learn how connecting words (such as relative pronouns and conjunctions) establish the relationship between different parts of a sentence.
CR15 Recognizing words that signal contrasting ideas in a sentence	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Learn how certain words (such as “although,” “but,” “however,” and “while”) are used to signal a contrast between one part of a sentence and another.
CR16 Recognizing a definition when it is presented in a sentence	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Learn how such elements as appositives, subordination, and punctuation are used to define words in a sentence.
CR17 Understanding sentences that deal with abstract ideas	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Broaden your reading to include newspaper editorials, political essays, and philosophical writings.
CR18 Understanding and using a word in an unusual context	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Work on using word definitions when choosing an answer. Try not to be confused by an unusual meaning of a term.
CR19 Comprehending long sentences	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Practice reducing long sentences into small, understandable parts.
CR20 Choosing a correct answer based on the meaning of the entire sentence	✓										Make sure your answer choice fits the logic of the sentence as a whole. Don’t choose an answer just because it sounds good when inserted in the blank.
CR21 Understanding sentences that deal with scientific ideas					✓						Read magazine articles about scientific subjects to improve your comfort level in this area.

K-12 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

	Pre-AP: Topics for AP Vertical Teams in English	Pre-AP: Topics for AP Vertical Teams in English—Grammar	Pre-AP: Strategies in English—Beyond Acronyms: Inquiry-Based Close Reading	Pre-AP: Strategies in English—Reading to Write	Pre-AP: Strategies in English—Rhetoric	Pre-AP: Strategies in English—Writing Tactics Using SOAPStone	Pre-AP: Interdisciplinary Strategies—Argumentation and the Writing Process	Pre-AP: Interdisciplinary Strategies for English and Social Studies	SAT Readiness Program: Animating Student Writing Workshop	SAT Readiness Program: Writing Preparation Workshop for ESL/ELL Students	PSAT/NMSQT: “How To Improve” Advice for Students; Workshop(s) on the left with checkmark provide additional strategies for teachers.
WRITING SKILLS											
W1 Being precise and clear	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Learn to recognize sentence elements that are ambiguous and confusing. In your writing, choose words carefully and connect them for clear meaning.
W2 Following conventions in writing	✓	✓				✓		✓	✓	✓	Review the chapters in a grammar book that cover grammatical conventions, such as word choice, use of noun and prepositional phrases, and sentence construction. Work with your teacher to become more familiar with the conventions of standard written English.
W3 Recognizing logical connections within sentences and passages	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Use the writing process to help you revise your draft essays. Work with classmates and teachers to clarify meaning in your writing.
W4 Using verbs correctly	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Make sure that you can identify the subject and verb of a sentence. Make sure you understand subject and verb agreement.
W5 Recognizing improper pronoun use		✓						✓	✓	✓	Learn to understand the distinction between informal spoken pronoun usage and standard written pronoun usage. Review the way you use pronouns in your own writing. Ask your teacher to help you identify and correct pronoun errors in your own writing.
W6 Understanding the structure of sentences with unfamiliar vocabulary	✓	✓			✓					✓	Read material that contains unfamiliar vocabulary. Look for context clues to help you guess at the meaning of unfamiliar words as you read.
W7 Understanding complicated sentence structures	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Refer to a grammar book to identify various sentence patterns and their effective use. Vary the sentence patterns in your own writing.
W8 Understanding the structure of long sentences	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	As you read, break long sentences into smaller units of meaning.
W9 Understanding the structure of sentences with abstract ideas	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Read newspapers, magazines, and books that deal with subjects such as politics, economics, history, or philosophy.

K-12 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

PSAT/NMSQT STANDARD		Pre-AP: Topics for AP Vertical Teams in English	Pre-AP: Topics for AP Vertical Teams in English—Grammar	Pre-AP: Strategies in English—Beyond Inquiry-Based Close Reading	Pre-AP: Strategies in English—Reading to Write	Pre-AP: Strategies in English—Rhetoric	Pre-AP: Strategies in English—Writing Tactics Using SOAPStone	Pre-AP: Interdisciplinary Strategies—Argumentation and the Writing Process	Pre-AP: Interdisciplinary Strategies for English and Social Studies	SAT Readiness Program: Animating Student Writing Workshop	SAT Readiness Program: Writing Preparation Workshop for ESL/ELL Students	PSAT/NMSQT: “How To Improve” Advice for Students; Workshop(s) on the left with checkmark provide additional strategies for teachers.
WRITING SKILLS												
W10 Understanding the structure of sentences that relate to science or math	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Focus on how something is said as well as on what is said. Write about the things you are learning in math and science classes. Read articles in the science section of newspapers and magazines so that you will feel more comfortable with scientific or math content.
W11 Understanding the structure of sentences that relate to the arts	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Focus on how something is said as well as on what is said. Read articles in newspapers and magazines about the arts so that you will feel more comfortable with these subjects.



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