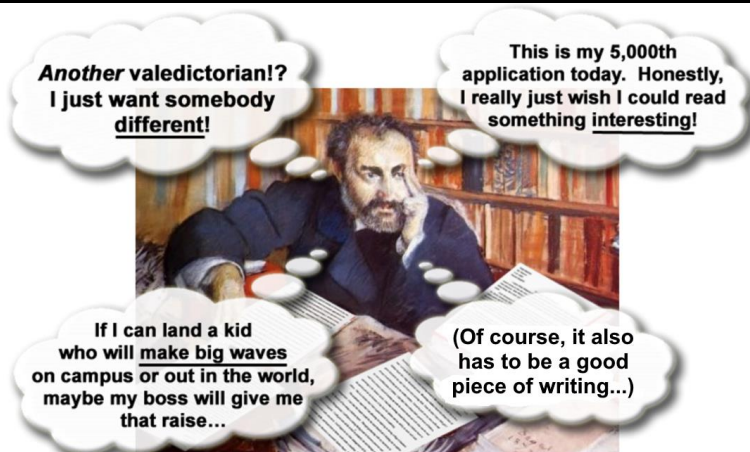




# Brainstorming Standout Essays



## Approach #1 – Be Impressive

*Any old kid can get good grades in college, graduate, and get a job. Counselors want to find bigger fish who will MAKE WAVES. Their jobs depend on it.*

- Suggest what big things you'll do on campus, or out in the world.

## Approach #2 – Be Different

*Colleges don't just want butts in chairs. They want all types of students. Diversity.*

- Suggest what makes you different than all the other hard-working, good-grade-getting students out there.

## Approach #3 – Be Interesting

*Counselors have to read a lot of these essays. Make them remember you.*

- Use stories, detailed examples... - Be funny, touching, dramatic, whatever fits your topic, but don't use a gimmick that isn't you.

## Other Tips:

- 10 ideas → UCs → Common App → Supps	- Bad: <b>Smoke words</b> (“My injury taught me about persistence and passion and achieving my goals”)
- <b>Don't repeat</b> what's already on your app	- Good: <b>Tangible details/examples</b> (“Flying hockey sticks; a lopsided chicken pecking volleyballs”)
- <b>Combo ideas</b> (“Swimming through Medicine” “Chem Magic Show” “A Peacock taught me C++”)	

## Application Essay Brainstorm Sheet

- What will be the most notable thing you do in college?
- What will be the most notable thing you do in your career?
- What are you really good at?
  - o How did you get good at it?
  - o What was the moment you realized you were good?
  - o When did you get a chance to show it?
  - o How could this ability help you in college or life?
- Do you have any interesting stories? Funny? Amazing? Touching?
- What's something really random about you? How does it relate to your character?
- What are you really BAD at?
- What's the biggest challenge you've had to overcome?
  - o Did you overcome it? (It's OK if you didn't)
  - o Either way, what did you learn?
- What is your biggest regret?
- Have you ever found yourself thrown into a new situation?
- Ever not fit in somewhere?
- Have you ever taken any interesting trips? What did you learn about the world/other people/yourself?
- What has been your most meaningful extra-curricular activity, even (especially?) if it's not the most resume-worthy?
- What adults in your life/in society do you most admire? Why?



**PJ Test Prep**

*College Prep Help Options*

**Summer Essay Class:** Finish your UC & Common App Essays before school resumes!

**SAT/ACT Prep** — Raise your score with our in-person and Zoom classes

**1:1 Tutoring and Coaching** for all of this

**Free SAT/ACT Practice Tests & Seminars!**

See our [Class Schedule](#) and more at [www.pjtestprep.com](http://www.pjtestprep.com)!





# PJ Test Prep

*Private Tutoring, Test Prep, and  
Admissions Essay Coaching*

## **SUMMER ESSAY CLASS (Zoom and/or In-Person)**

**\$595**

A 7-week, live Zoom or In-Person class that meets weekly and includes several rounds of peer review and 1:1 meetings with the instructor, plus draft review and commentary to move students start to finish through the essay process. Students also get 20% off further essay tutoring hours (for supplements, etc). See [www.pjtestprep.com](http://www.pjtestprep.com) for schedules.

*Best for students who are early in the essay process and would like guidance through all 4 UC PIQ essays and their Common App/Coalition main essay.*

## **Video + 1:1 Full ESSAY PROGRAM (Zoom)**

**\$595**

A 6-week (or faster if accelerated) video + 1:1 Zoom program that uses recorded coaching videos in conjunction with live meetings and multiple rounds of individual essay review and commentary to move students through the essay process from start to finish.

Includes: ● our *Completing your College App Essay* video program, ● two 30-minute 1:1 Zoom meetings, ● 2 rounds of audio notes on all 5 essays (4 UCs Insight Essays + 1 longer Common App or Coalition Essay), ● 1 round of Google Docs or Word edits and ● 20% off further essay tutoring hours

*Best for students who would like guidance through all 4 UC PIQ essays and their Common App/Coalition main essay but would like more flexibility than the Essay Class (above).*

## **A la Carte ESSAY TUTORING (Zoom and/or In-Person)**

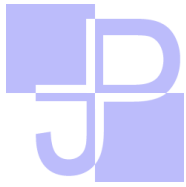
**Rates vary**

*Best for students who are partly/mostly done with their essays, and/or just need specialized coaching and review*

All programs strive to help students conceive and finish standout college essays, as well as become better writers.

*Paul Jury is a graduate of Northwestern University's Creative Writing for the Media Program, author of "States of Confusion," writer for TV shows on A&E, Vh1 and Disney, and founder of PJ Test Prep and Jury Academics. He has been coaching admissions essays for over a decade.*

[www.pjtestprep.com](http://www.pjtestprep.com) for more info, or  
[paul@pjtestprep.com](mailto:paul@pjtestprep.com) or (310) 529-7285 for question or to get started



# PJ Test Prep

## *SAT/ACT Prep & Academic Tutoring*

# Private TUTORING

PJ Test Prep offers high-quality in-home or Zoom tutoring for SAT, ACT and nearly every academic subject:

**SAT/ACT/PSAT/PACT/ISEE/SSAT**  
**MATH** (Grade school math through A.P. Calculus)  
**SCIENCE** (Natural science through A.P. Chemistry and Physics)  
**ENGLISH/WRITING**  
**READING** Comprehension/Critical Reading  
General Academic Help & Organizational/**STUDY SKILLS**

*Rates and references available upon request*  
**Ask about small-group rates!**

### Testimonials

**I GOT INTO BROWN EARLY DECISION!!! I'M FREAKING OUT RIGHT NOW!!!**

**Thank you for helping me and Sarah with the SAT last year... this feeling makes my whole high school experience mean something! Something huge! I hope you're well!**

*-Rachel B., Manhattan Beach*

**I just wanted to let you know that I got my ACT scores today and i got a 31!!!! I am so stoked and i wanted to thank you soooooo much for all you help. My science went up 9 points; I got a 31 in science (which I find unbelievable). So yeah basically you are an awesome tutor and I can't thank you enough.**

*-Maggie N., Redondo Beach*

**1050 to 1380--I was so happy for those extra points! Because of your class, I feel much less stressed over my test scores.**

*-Alexis, Palos Verdes*

**Thank you. We are so pleased with your service. Justin helped bring Evan's semester grades in Algebra 2 and Biology from C+'s to A's!**

*-Rosemary L., Torrance*

**Thanks you very much for the training. Your tutor was excellent, courteous, knowledgeable and punctual. He made the difference in Charisma's life. Her scores jumped from 1170 to 1480.**

*-Fred H., Torrance*

**Thank you for you great help you provided to Cindy, I don't have enough words to express it. My daughter said she couldn't believe she actually took the exam it was a dream come true. She would have never done it with out your financial assistance. Bless you, for your wonderful contributions to students that want to make a change in their lives. You are a light in their lives and someday we will give back to someone else. You have a friend to count with when you need us!**

*-Aida C. & Family, Lomita*



# PJ Test Prep

## Schedule for Summer 2024 SAT, ACT, and Essay Classes

Schedule subject to change: see the most recent version and sign up at [www.pjtestprep.com](http://www.pjtestprep.com). All times are Pacific Time.

### LOCATIONS:

**Hermosa** = Holiday Inn Express Hermosa (125 Pac. Coast Hwy, Hermosa Beach)

**ZOOM** = Classes are conducted via Zoom, though students can attend some events in person if desired.

## Course for August 24<sup>th</sup> SAT

SAT In-Person Full Course <b>2408SAT-FullHermosa - \$595</b> Location: <b>Hermosa</b> - Instructor: Paul Jury			SAT Zoom Full Course <b>2408SAT-FullHermosa - \$595</b> Location: <b>Zoom</b> - Instructor: Paul Jury		
Practice Test 1	Sat, July 13	10am-12:30pm	Practice Test 1	Sat, July 13	10am-12:30pm
Class 1	Sun, July 14	<b>1-3:30pm</b>	Class 1	Sun, July 14	<b>1-3:30pm</b>
Class 2	Tues, July 16	6:30-9pm	Class 2	Tues, July 16	6:30-9pm
Practice Test 2	Sun, July 21	10am-12:30pm	Practice Test 2	Sun, July 21	10am-12:30pm
<i>PT 2 Review**</i>	<i>Tues, July 23</i>	<i>8-9pm</i>	<i>PT 2 Review</i>	<i>Tues, July 23</i>	<i>8-9pm</i>
Class 3	Sun, Jul 28	10am-12:30pm	Class 3	Sun, Jul 28	10am-12:30pm
Class 4	Tues, Jul 30	6:30-9pm	Class 4	Tues, Jul 30	6:30-9pm
Class 5	Sun, Aug 4	10am-12:30pm	Class 5	Sun, Aug 4	10am-12:30pm
Practice Test 3	Sat, Aug 10	10am-12:30pm	Practice Test 3	Sat, Aug 10	10am-12:30pm
Class 6**	Sun, Aug 11	10am-12:30pm	Class 6	Sun, Aug 11	10am-12:30pm
<i>PT 3 Review**</i>	<i>Tues, Aug 13</i>	<i>TBA</i>	<i>PT 3 Review</i>	<i>Tues, Aug 13</i>	<i>TBA</i>
Class 7	Sun, Aug 18	10am-12:30pm	Class 7	Sun, Aug 18	10am-12:30pm

*\*\*Zoom only*

Contact Director Paul Jury - [paul@pjtestprep.com](mailto:paul@pjtestprep.com) - (310) 529-7285

Course schedules subject to change. See [www.pjtestprep.com](http://www.pjtestprep.com) for the most recent schedule, and to sign up!



# PJ Test Prep

## Summer College Essay/Personal Statement Workshop

### Students will:

- Learn how to write effective **college application essays** and personal statements, and leave class with **all 4 UC Insight Essays** (aka the *PIQs*\*) **+ their longer Common App/Coalition Essay completed**, with individualized feedback at all stages of these essays.  
\* *PIQ essays can often be repurposed for us in Common App supplement essays*
- Learn how to get **better grades on high school essays** (like English papers and AP exams) and **college level essays** (like the out-of-class papers and in-class exams they'll see at competitive 4-year colleges).
- Become more **creative** writers

<b><u>Summer College Essay Class</u></b>		
<b>\$595</b>		
<i>Location: <b>Hermosa (Holiday Inn Express, 125 PCH) or Zoom</b></i>		
<i>Week of July 8th</i>	-	<i>Pre-Class videos</i>
Sun, July 14	4-6pm	<b>Class 1 (In person or Zoom)</b>
Wed, July 17	7-9pm	<b>Class 2 (In person or Zoom)</b>
<i>July 18-20</i>	<i>Various</i>	<i>1:1 meetings (Zoom)</i>
Sun, July 21	4-6pm	<b>Class 3 (Zoom + possibly in-person)</b>
Wed, July 24	8-9pm	<i>Optional Office Hours** (Zoom)</i>
Sun, July 28	<b>4-5:30pm</b>	<b>Class 4 (Zoom + possibly in-person)</b>
Wed, July 31	7-9pm	Mini-Class + work time & <i>Office Hours (Zoom)</i>
Sun, Aug 4	<b>4-5:30pm</b>	Mini-Class + work time <i>(Zoom + possibly in-person)</i>
<i>Aug 5-7</i>	<i>Various</i>	<i>1:1 meetings (Zoom)</i>
Wed, Aug 7	8-9pm	<i>Optional Office Hours** (Zoom)</i>
<b>Sun, Aug 11</b>	4-6pm	<b>Class 5 (Zoom + possibly in-person)</b>
<b>Wed, Aug 14</b>	TBA	<i>Optional Office Hours** (Zoom)</i>
<b>Sun, Aug 18</b>	TBA	<i>Optional Office Hours** (Zoom)</i>
Nov 30		<b>UC Application Deadline</b>

\*\**Optional Office Hours* are intended to assist those who want or need additional help through certain parts of the process. A student may attend as many as desired, and may be asked to attend one or more of them.

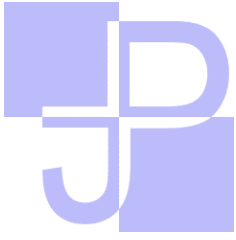
IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE, student will receive:

- **Additional in-class 1:1 feedback** on their essays
- **2 rounds of emailed notes** on all 5 essays (4 UCs Insight Essays + 1 longer Common App or Coalition Essay)
- **20% off any further essay tutoring** (for any supplements or fall scholarship essays)

Class will be instructed by **Paul Jury**, Essay Coach, alumni of Northwestern University's Creative Writing for the Media Program, Author of "States of Confusion," Writer for TV shows on A&E, Vh1 and Discovery, and founder of PJ Test Prep and Jury Academics.

1:1 Feedback will be from Paul or one of his top Essay tutors (trained Essay pros and graduates from Harvard and Johns Hopkins)

[www.pjtestprep.com](http://www.pjtestprep.com) to sign up  
[paul@pjtestprep.com](mailto:paul@pjtestprep.com) or (310) 529-7285 for more info



The College Experts at **PJ Test Prep** present our newest course:

## The College App Workshop Sequence

**Finalize your college list and complete your Common App, UC, Cal State and Independent applications** before school starts!

Register for **single Workshops**, or the **whole program!**

<p><b>Workshop A: Finalizing Your College List</b>  <b>Goal:</b> Students will leave the workshop with a completed college list – a mixture of REACH, TARGET, and LIKELY schools to which they might apply.</p>	<p><b>Students will also...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discuss career and college goals and how these influence college choice and major selection.</li> <li>- Learn how to navigate search sites, about Early Decision and Early Action options, and about associated deadline.</li> <li>- Receive 1:1 recommendations about potential good college fits.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Workshop B: Polishing your College Package</b>  <b>Goal:</b> Students will prep their College “Package”, including their College Resume, Brag Sheet, and Activities List, making a plan for their Letters of Rec, and plotting the overall “Picture” they will paint with their application and essays.</p>	<p><b>Students will also...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Learn how to unify their application to best present themselves to colleges.</li> <li>- Develop their College Resume, Activity List and Brag sheet, and learn how to gather Letters of Rec.</li> <li>- Get 1:1 consultation on <i>their</i> particular college package.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Workshop C: Filling out the App!</b>  <b>Goal:</b> Students will fill out their Common App, UC, Cal State and/or Independent applications.</p>	<p><b>Students will also...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Learn how to open accounts on + navigate college app platforms</li> <li>- Get 1:1 supervision as they fill out their college apps with their prepared info (and be able to change them later if needed)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Workshop D: The College Essay</b>  <b>Goal:</b> Students will pick topics and begin drafting their Essays (UC, Common App and/or Independent Essays), and revise/finish them if they’re further along.</p>	<p><b>Students will also...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Learn about what admissions officers are looking for and how to brainstorm and write standout essays.</li> <li>- Receive 1:1 feedback on their essay ideas and/or drafts.</li> </ul>

### PRICING: \$95 per Workshop, or \$295 for all four (A, B, C and D)

Limited to a small number of students in each session, so register ASAP! Waitlist available if classes fill.

#### SCHEDULE: SESSION 1

Workshop A: <b>Finalizing Your College List</b>	Sat, July 27 @ 2:15-5:15pm	Hermosa Beach or Zoom
Workshop B: <b>Polishing your College “Package”</b>	Sun, July 28 @ 5:45-8:45pm	Hermosa Beach or Zoom
Workshop C: <b>Filling out the App!</b>	Sat, Aug 3 @ 2:15-5:15pm	Hermosa Beach or Zoom
Workshop D: <b>The College Essay</b>	Sun, Aug 4 @ 5:45-8:45pm	Hermosa Beach or Zoom

#### SCHEDULE: SESSION 2

Workshop A: <b>Finalizing Your College List</b>	Sun, Sept 8 @ Noon-3pm	Hermosa Beach or Zoom
Workshop B: <b>Polishing your College “Package”</b>	Sun, Sept 15 @ Noon-3pm	Hermosa Beach or Zoom
Workshop C: <b>Filling out the App!</b>	Sun, Sept 22 @ Noon-3pm	Hermosa Beach or Zoom
Workshop D: <b>The College Essay</b>	Sun, Sept 29 @ Noon-3pm	Hermosa Beach or Zoom

Register at [www.pjtestprep.com](http://www.pjtestprep.com). Questions? 310-529-7285 or [paul@pjtestprep.com](mailto:paul@pjtestprep.com)





# PJ Test Prep

## Schedule for Fall '24 SAT, ACT, and Essay Classes

Schedule subject to change: see the most recent version and sign up at [www.pjtestprep.com](http://www.pjtestprep.com).

All times are Pacific Time.

### LOCATIONS:

**Hermosa** = **Holiday Inn Express Hermosa** (125 Pac. Coast Hwy, Hermosa Beach).

**ZOOM** = Classes are conducted via Zoom, though we also try to provide in-person options when available, especially for Practice Tests.

## Courses for the Oct 5th SAT & Oct PSAT

In-Person Full Course <b>2410SAT-FullHermosa - \$595</b> <i>Location: Hermosa - Instructor: Paul Jury</i>			Zoom Full Course <b>2410SAT-FullZoom - \$595</b> <i>Location: Zoom - Instructor: Paul Jury</i>		
Practice Test 1	Sat, Aug 31	10am-1pm	Practice Test 1*	Sat, Aug 31	10am-1pm
Class 1	Wed, Sept 4	6:15-8:45pm	Class 1	Wed, Sept 4	6:15-8:45pm
Class 2	Sat, Sept 7	3:15-5:45pm	Class 2	Sat, Sept 7	3:15-5:45pm
Practice Test 2	Sun, Sept 8	9-11:30am	Practice Test 2*	Sun, Sept 8	9-11:30am
PT 2 Review**	Mon, Sept 9	8-9pm	PT 2 Review	Mon, Sept 9	8-9pm
Class 3	Wed, Sept 11	6:15-8:45pm	Class 3	Wed, Sept 11	6:15-8:45pm
Class 4	Sun, Sept 15	3:15-5:45pm	Class 4	Sun, Sept 15	3:15-5:45pm
Class 5	Wed, Sept 18	6:15-8:45pm	Class 5	Wed, Sept 18	6:15-8:45pm
Practice Test 3	Sun, Sept 22	9-11:30am	Practice Test 3*	Sun, Sept 22	9-11:30am
PT 3 Review**	Mon, Sept 23	8-9pm	PT 3 Review	Mon, Sept 23	8-9pm
Class 6	Wed, Sept 25	6:15-8:45pm	Class 6	Wed, Sept 25	6:15-8:45pm
Class 7	Sun, Sept 29	6:15-8:45pm	Class 7	Sun, Sept 29	6:15-8:45pm

\*\*PT Review sessions are Zoom only

\*Zoom students are welcome to join in-person Practice Tests.

In-Person Crash Course <b>2410SAT-CrashHermosa - \$295</b> <i>Location: Hermosa - Instructor: Paul Jury</i>			Zoom Crash Course <b>2410SAT-CrashZoom - \$295</b> <i>Location: Zoom - Instructor: Paul Jury</i>		
Class 1	Sun, Sept 22	3:15-8:45pm	Class 1	Sun, Sept 22	3:15-8:45pm
Practice Test	Sat, Sept 28	9am-Noon	Practice Test*	Sat, Sept 28	9am-Noon
Class 2	Sun, Sept 29	3:15-8:45pm	Class 2	Sun, Sept 29	3:15-8:45pm

\*Zoom students are welcome to join in-person Practice Tests.

[www.pjtestprep.com](http://www.pjtestprep.com) to sign up!

Contact: Director Paul Jury - [paul@pjtestprep.com](mailto:paul@pjtestprep.com) - (310) 529-7285

You must sign up for the actual SAT/ACT separately, at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) & [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)



# PJ Test Prep

## Schedule for Fall '24 SAT, ACT, and Essay Classes

Schedule subject to change: see the most recent version and sign up at [www.pjtestprep.com](http://www.pjtestprep.com).  
All times are Pacific Time.

### LOCATIONS:

**Hermosa** = Holiday Inn Express Hermosa (125 Pac. Coast Hwy, Hermosa Beach)

**ZOOM** = Classes are conducted via Zoom, though we also try to provide in-person options when available, especially for Practice Tests.

## Full Course for the December 7<sup>th</sup> SAT

<b>Sunday In-Person Full Course for the 2412SAT-FullHermosa - \$495</b> (Contact us about the \$295 option to take only the first 3 events for the <b>Nov SAT</b> ) Location: <i>Hermosa</i> - Instructor: <i>Paul Jury</i>			<b>Sunday Zoom Full Course for the 2412SAT-FullHermosa - \$495</b> (Contact us about the \$295 option to take only the first 3 events for the <b>Nov SAT</b> ) Location: <i>Zoom</i> - Instructor: <i>Paul Jury</i>		
Practice Test 1	Sat, Oct 20	10am-1pm	Practice Test 1*	Sat, Oct 20	10am-1pm
Class 1	Tues, Oct 22	6:15-8:45pm	Class 1	Tues, Oct 22	6:15-8:45pm
Class 2	Tues, Oct 29	6:15-8:45pm	Class 2	Tues, Oct 29	6:15-8:45pm
Practice Test 2	Sat, Nov 2	10am-1pm	Practice Test 2*	Sat, Nov 2	10am-1pm
PT 2 Review**	Sun, Nov 3	8-9pm	PT 2 Review	Sun, Nov 3	8-9pm
Class 3	Tues, Nov 5	6:15-8:45pm	Class 3	Tues, Nov 5	6:15-8:45pm
Class 4	Tues, Nov 12	6:15-8:45pm	Class 4	Tues, Nov 12	6:15-8:45pm
Class 5	Tues, Nov 19	6:15-8:45pm	Class 5	Tues, Nov 19	6:15-8:45pm
Practice Test 3	Sat, Nov 23	10am-1pm	Practice Test 3*	Sat, Nov 23	10am-1pm
PT 3 Review**	Sun, Nov 24	8-9pm	PT 3 Review	Sun, Nov 24	8-9pm
Class 6	Tues, Nov 26	6:15-8:45pm	Class 6	Tues, Nov 26	6:15-8:45pm
Class 7	Sun, Dec 1	2-4:30pm	Class 7	Sun, Dec 1	2-4:30pm

\*\*PT Review sessions are Zoom only

\*Zoom students are welcome to join in-person Practice Tests.

[www.pjtestprep.com](http://www.pjtestprep.com) to sign up!

Contact: Director Paul Jury - [paul@pjtestprep.com](mailto:paul@pjtestprep.com) - (310) 529-7285

You must sign up for the actual SAT/ACT separately, at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) & [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)