



**In our experience, the ACT is the better option for a majority of students.  
Let's walk through how to decide:**

|                                                                      | SAT                                                                | ACT                                                                                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The Reading Section<br>(major decision criteria #1)                  | Hard!<br>(but not that fast)                                       | Fast!<br>(but rather easy, although boring)                                                                            |
| Accommodations<br>(major decision criteria #2)                       | 1.5 time means you are there for almost 5 hours straight           | Kids who qualify for 1.5 time are nearly always also granted multi-day testing (once we inform them they should apply) |
| Math<br>(major decision criteria #3: ACT better for almost everyone) | Trickier<br>Harder to train for<br>There's a no calculator portion | More straightforward<br>Very preppable<br>Calculator allowed on the entire test                                        |
| Science<br>(should not be a deciding factor!)                        | NA                                                                 | Horrible at first sight, but extremely preppable                                                                       |
| English/Writing (i.e., Grammar!)                                     | Almost no difference, thus should not be a deciding factor         |                                                                                                                        |

Further considerations:

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| SAT: Grammar and Reading comprehension combined into one score                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | ACT: "English" (grammar) and Reading are separate scores |
| <i>Is one going to display your strengths better than another? Where else do you have an opportunity to demonstrate your abilities? For example, are your AP Language or Calculus scores impressive, or can you perform well on a Math subject test (hint: you probably can).</i> |                                                          |