

Practice SAT Essay Questions Suggested by *A New Dawn*

Question #1

There is a genuine beauty in aging, though it takes a different set of priorities to see it. In many societies, the elders were revered, valued for their experience and knowledge. They were the ones given the ultimate respect. Though it's still this way in certain families, American society as a whole seems to have lost that perspective. Instead, we seem to be buying into a wholesale denial of age. We equate getting older with frailty, ugliness, and senility.

- From Ellen Steiber's "Tall, Dark, and . . . Thirsty?"

Youth is usually lauded for its innocence and physical vitality. Getting older isn't talked about in terms of gaining something new, but rather moving further and further away from a preferred state of youth. But youth and age both have upsides and downsides. Which is it better to be: young or old?

Plan and write an essay in which you develop your point of view on this issue. Support your position with examples taken from your reading, studies, experience, or observation.

Question #2

No one is excused from the responsibility of choice because of his or her nature. Bella sums up this philosophy very succinctly to Jacob when she thinks that the werewolves are responsible for some missing hikers' deaths: "It's not what you are, stupid, it's what you do!"

- From Janette Rallison's "To Bite, or Not to Bite"

Do we truly have power over who we are and what we do? Or are they the result of things we cannot control: the way we were raised, God's plan, etc.?

Plan and write an essay in which you develop your point of view on this issue. Support your position with examples taken from your reading, studies, experience, or observation.