

## ***THE SAT ESSAY: IS LONGER BETTER?***

Following the debut of the new SAT writing test in March 2005, Dr. Les Perelman, from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), stirred controversy by reporting, “It appeared to me that regardless of what a student wrote, the longer the essay, the higher the score.” He went on to say, “I have never found a quantifiable predictor in 25 years of grading that was anywhere as strong as this one. If you just graded them based on length without ever reading them, you’d be right over 90 percent of the time.” The table below shows the data set that Dr. Perelman used to draw his conclusions.

Using all the things you need for an analysis using two variables (scatterplot, correlation, coefficient of determination, LSRL, prediction, residuals, residual plot), respond to Dr. Perelman’s research and conclusion.

<b>Words</b>	460	422	402	365	357	278	236	201	168	156	133
<b>Score</b>	6	6	5	5	6	5	4	4	4	3	2
<b>Words</b>	114	108	100	403	401	388	320	258	236	189	128
<b>Score</b>	2	1	1	5	6	6	5	4	4	3	2
<b>Words</b>	67	697	387	355	337	325	272	150	135		
<b>Score</b>	1	6	6	5	5	4	4	2	3		