

- Questions throughout the new SAT ask for the “why” and the “how” not just the “what.” Students who are drawn to “evidence-based/contextual” learning may identify with the new SAT’s approach. Kids who have trouble thinking through problems and prefer to look for shortcuts to “right” answers may find the test quite demanding.

- The normative curve on the new SAT will be “gentler” than before. This means that although students are likely to find the new test difficult, they’ll be allowed more wrong answers while still scoring within the ranges previously reserved for test takers with fewer mistakes. To find out more about the new SAT, be sure to visit the College Board website and the free and excellent test prep provided by the College Board’s partner, Khan Academy; to learn more about the ACT, visit <http://www.act.org/>. And don’t forget that over 800 schools are test-optional!

As with anything in life, one size doesn’t fit all.

Families of college-bound high school seniors: Don’t forget to file the online FAFSA shortly after Jan. 1. To help my client families begin the FAFSA process, I’ve posted on my website a PowerPoint demo, provided by the Department of Education, to which I’ve added notes and tips. The demo walks viewers through each section of the FAFSA, page-by-page, and includes instructions on how to set up your FSA ID (formerly known as the PIN) so that your form can be electronically submitted as soon as you complete it. If you’d like to receive the link to this demo, email me at smoore@nextstepcollegecounseling.com.

“Best of the Blogs” features contents from bloggers at www.poughkeepsiejournal.com and does not reflect the views or opinion of the Poughkeepsie Journal. Questions or comments can be emailed to life@poughkeepsiejournal.com.

About ‘Best of the Blogs’

“Best of the Blogs” is a feature you will find every Monday in Family/Life. The Poughkeepsie Journal hosts a variety of bloggers who write about such diverse topics as wine, food, special diets, financial aid, health, family, crafts and entertainment. Be sure to check them

out online at www.poughkeepsiejournal.com