



How to Write a SAT Essay

Paul Bogard's "Let There Be Dark"

Paul Bogard's "Let There Be Dark" illustrates a large variety of rhetorical writing methods to create a key message. The message being: before the almost infinite list of benefits of the night's natural darkness is completely lost, people should make more effort to decrease light pollution.

The main argument is constructed around his opinions on the advantages of the night's darkness. This includes health, environmental, and economic advantages. Initializing these benefits with the outside sources, Bogard ends his message with the implication of 'hope' – persuading his readers to support his course.

Bogard, then, begins to argue his personal narrative to elaborate on his own experiences with the enchanting darkness against the tendency of the new generation never having had the advantage to experience the night's genuine sky. His strong imagery of "woods so dark [his] hands disappeared before [his] eyes" grabs his readers with a powerful implied image. Bogard's use of statistics also adds to this image when he stated: "8 out of 10 children never see the night sky." This gives an urgent appeal that is constructed and elaborated on through this source.

The next segment of Bogard's evidence is made up of the economic factors that derive from preserving the night sky – first referring to NASA for also stating that darkness is fading away. Bogard's explanation of pointless light is "eating up energy, thus using up valuable dollars." This shows the reader a basic advantage of decreasing excess light: saving money.

After celebrating natural darkness and opposing light pollution—including a range of advantages—Bogard begins to refer to a possible future. This includes France's efforts to preserve the pitch-blackness in Paris. The final part of the source ends his claim with, "the night is a wonder to appreciate".

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In conclusion, Paul Bogard's appeal is constructed very carefully. It is made up of a large variety of examples of the numerous advantages of preserving natural darkness, and multiple sources. He uses both persuasive and gripping methods, as well as the use of similes.