

LSAT Formula and Strategy Guide

The current LSAT's two scored question types, Logical Reasoning and Reading Comprehension, plus the unscored Argumentative Writing sample — with the argument structure each question type rewards.

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How to use this guide

A formula you cannot place is not knowledge yet. Work the recall drill below before the questions.

- Identify the argument's conclusion and premises before reading the answer choices — most Logical Reasoning errors come from misidentifying which statement is the conclusion.
- Reading Comprehension rewards passage structure (what each paragraph is doing) over memorizing every detail.
- For Logical Reasoning, an answer that is true but does not address the specific flaw or gap in the argument is still wrong.

1. Logical Reasoning: core question types

NAME	FORMULA	WHEN TO USE
Assumption	find the unstated premise the argument's logic requires to be true	The argument has a gap between premise and conclusion.
Strengthen / weaken	identify what new fact would make the conclusion more or less likely	New evidence is added to an existing argument.
Flaw	name the specific logical error (e.g., correlation treated as causation)	Asked what is wrong with the argument's reasoning.
Inference	the statement that MUST be true given only the stated premises	Asked what can be properly concluded, not assumed.
Parallel reasoning	match the same abstract argument STRUCTURE , not the same topic	Asked which argument reasons the same way.

2. Reading Comprehension

NAME	FORMULA	WHEN TO USE
Passage structure	track what each paragraph does (introduce, support, complicate, conclude)	Understanding how a passage's argument is built.
Author's main point	the overall claim every paragraph serves, not a single supporting detail	Asked for the passage's primary purpose or thesis.

NAME	FORMULA	WHEN TO USE
Line-reference questions	reread the surrounding sentences before answering, not just the exact line	The question cites a specific line or phrase.

3. LSAT Argumentative Writing

NAME	FORMULA	WHEN TO USE
Position selection	choose the side you can support with the STRONGEST reasoning, not necessarily personal opinion	Given two options and criteria to decide between them.
Using the given criteria	explicitly tie each reason back to the stated decision criteria	The prompt gives goals or facts to weigh.
Addressing the counter-position	acknowledge the weaker option's strength, then explain why it is still weaker	Building a complete, persuasive argument.

Notes and tutor hand-off

Bring this page to your next session so the tutor can start from what actually blocked you.

Which Logical Reasoning question type (assumption, strengthen/weaken, flaw, inference, parallel) needs more practice?

One Reading Comprehension passage structure that was hard to track:

Worksheet question numbers to review with a tutor:
