



5 brook street, bldg. 1A - office 1 darien, ct. 06820 cell: 203.273.2611 office: 203.656.3932 [mnperch@theliteracyacademy.com](mailto:mnperch@theliteracyacademy.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
Business, News, and Feature Editors

**PRESS CONTACT: Natalia Perchemlides**  
Tel.: 203.273.2611  
E-mail: [mnperch@theliteracyacademy.com](mailto:mnperch@theliteracyacademy.com)

### **"MAKING THE GRADE" FOR STUDENTS**

Local tutoring center expands in the changing face of college admissions testing

**DARIEN, Connecticut—March 29, 2004—**"*Helping young people love and master reading & writing for life.*" That's the motto of Darien-based tutoring center The Literacy Academy, LLC--and now it'll be even easier to follow, with new additions to services and staff, implemented for its students' continued academic success.

#### **The Literacy Academy's SAT & SAT2 prep services:**

Remember SAT analogies like "Pride is to lions as flock is to seagulls?" Well, they'll soon be a thing of the past, due to the College Board's decision to eliminate the word puzzles and other elements from the SAT in order to make room for new, 25-minute essay writing and grammatical editing components. TLA is prepared for these changes, offering students one-on-one, intensive literary programs needed to hone their writing skills for these new SAT sections. "Furthermore," adds TLA founder and lead instructor Natalia Perchemlides, "they'll learn valuable reading & writing skills that they will take with them to college."

#### **TLA's college essay services:**

Since the essay portion of a college application is one of its most important and challenging elements, TLA's specialists work with students throughout the entire essay writing process--from creating question/answer strategies in the initial consultation to assisting with brainstorming and editing (all done in the student's presence). Although sessions are offered in the fall, Perchemlides recommends students "complete their essays in the summer, before the stress of multiple commitments of school ensue."

#### **TLA's new staff additions:**

The Literacy Academy welcomes two new highly skilled additions to its staff, elementary school specialist Courtney Calabrese and secondary school specialist Cici Coutant. "Working with the Literacy Academy has given me an experience that takes my teaching in writing and reading to a whole new level," says Calabrese, who holds a Masters in Elementary Education (M.Ed) from Sacred Heart University. Coutant holds a Master's in the Art of Teaching English (M.A.T.) from the University of Virginia, and is also a teacher/consultant with the Connecticut Writing Project. "The success that my students find is fulfilling to me as a teacher," says Coutant.

#### **TLA also offers students these additional features:**

- All instruction done one-on-one
- Always the same instructor (fostering stronger student/instructor relationships)
- "Block" sessions of 75 minutes--longer than sessions at most other tutoring centers
- Sessions customized to suit students' needs--nothing prefabricated

#### **About The Literacy Academy, LLC:**

TLA was founded in Summer 2003 by Lead Instructor Natalia Perchemlides. She holds a Masters in Education, and has taught English for six years in some of our nation's most diverse and progressive public schools. Perchemlides is currently pursuing a second masters degree, this time in creative writing, and also has six years of corporate writing and editing experience. "At TLA my teaching has no ceiling, which means my students' progress is boundless." For additional information about The Literacy Academy, LLC and its services, please visit [www.theliteracyacademy.com](http://www.theliteracyacademy.com) or call 203.273.2611.

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