

Succeeding On Essay Tests

- ✓ Read the directions carefully. The directions will tell you what type of essay you need to write. The directions will also identify whether you need to write an essay for each question, or select questions that you want to write essays for.
- ✓ Budget your time. Divide the amount of time you have by the number of questions you have or essays you need to write. Be sure to watch the clock and do not spend all your time on one essay.
- ✓ What type of question are you answering? Is your essay to be expository (informative), creative, persuasive, or narrative?
- ✓ Make a quick outline. Once you have read the question carefully write out a quick outline. Include one main idea or sentence for each paragraph you'd like to write. This allows you to plan your writing and to ensure that your essay is logically organized.
- ✓ Develop one main idea per paragraph. Use your outline to help you plan details that explain or expand on each main idea.
- ✓ Write strong sentences. If you are writing an expository (informative) or persuasive essay, be sure to include facts or evidence to support your main points. If you are writing a creative or narrative essay, sentences should be descriptive and engaging.
- ✓ Proofread your Work.