

Q:
What are the major purposes of the Essay Test-Taking Strategy?

A:
To help me get the best grade possible on an essay test. To help organize my answers. To help me communicate what I know about a topic.

Q:
To what kinds of writing tasks might you apply the Essay Test-Taking Strategy?

A:
Any assignments where I need to write a long answer to a question. Any test that has short-answer or essay questions. Tests like the SAT and the state competency exam.

Q:
What are you basically doing as you use the Analyze the Action Words Step of the Essay Test-Taking Strategy?

A:
I'm reading the question. I'm underlining the key action words with one line.

Q:
How do the action words help you?

A:
They tell me what to do.

Q:

What are some example action words that you might find in a question?

A:

Describe. Compare. Choose. Select. List.
Justify. Explain.

Q:

What is the first thing you do in the second step, Notice the Requirements?

A:

I'm underlining the requirements with two lines.

Q:

How would you define "requirements" in this case?

A:

They are the clues as to what information to include in my answer.

Q:

How does underlining them with a double underline help you?

A:

I'll be able to go back and look at them as I make my outline and after I've written the answer.

Q:
How does changing the question into your own words help you?

A:
It makes it mine. It helps me understand it. It helps me understand what I don't understand so that I can ask the teacher a question about it.

Q:
What's the purpose of arranging the time you will spend on each part of answering the question?

A:
It helps me answer the question in the time given. It helps me finish my answer on time.

Q:
How many numbers will you write next to the question to arrange the time?

A:
Three: one for the time spent on creating an outline, one for time spent on writing, and one for the review.

Q:
What do you do when you name a goal?

A:
I say something positive about what I will do. I tell myself I will do well.

Q:
How does an outline help you?

A:
It gives me a structure or a plan to follow, so I end up with a well-organized answer that includes all the requirements in the question.

Q:
Why is organizing an answer before you write it helpful?

A:
It helps me know what to write first, second, third. It helps me focus each paragraph on one topic.

Q:
What are the three parts you need to include in an outline for an essay answer?

A:
Main ideas, details and numbers.

Q:
What part of an outline do you create in Step 3: Set Up an Outline?

A:
You write the main ideas of the outline.

Q:
What parts of the outline do you create in Step 4?

A:
I add the details and numbers.

Q:
What are the two types of paragraphs you write when you “Engineer Your Answer”?

A:
The Introductory Paragraph. The Detail Paragraphs.

Q:
What is the purpose of the Introductory Paragraph?

A:
To describe to the reader what the answer will cover.

Q:
What should be included in the Introductory Paragraph?

A:
A restatement of the question. The main ideas in the outline.

Q:

Why is having a series of steps to follow as you answer an essay question helpful?

A:

The task is easier if I know what to do next.
The task seems doable if it is broken into smaller parts.

Q:

Why is having a series of steps to follow as you answer an essay question helpful?

A:

The task is easier if I know what to do next.
The task seems doable if it is broken into smaller parts.

Q:

Why is talking to yourself as you follow the steps of the strategy important?

A:

So I can encourage myself to keep going. So
I can tell myself I'm doing a good job.

Q:

Why is talking to yourself as you follow the steps of the strategy important?

A:

So I can encourage myself to keep going. So
I can tell myself I'm doing a good job.

Q:
**In your own words, tell me what you do as
you use the Essay Test-Taking Strategy.**

A: First, I read the question carefully and underline all the key action words with one underline. Second, I mark all the requirements with two underlines. I also change the question into my own words and figure out how much time to spend on creating an outline and writing and reviewing my answer. Additionally, I name a goal for myself. Third, I set up an outline of the main ideas to include in my answer. Fourth I work in details about each of those main ideas into my outline and add numbers to indicate order. Fifth, I write my answer. I include an Introductory Paragraph. I also include one Detail Paragraph for each main idea in my outline. Finally, I review my answer, making sure I've included all the requirements and everything from my outline. I also polish it to make it look good.

Q:
What is the mnemonic device for remembering the steps of the Essay Test-Taking Strategy?

A:
A N S W E R.

Q:
What is the mnemonic device for remembering the substeps in the Notice the Requirements Step?

A:
S C A N.

Q:
How do these mnemonic devices help you?

A:
I can use them to remember the steps and substeps of the strategy and tell myself what to do next as I answer any essay question.

Q:
Why is writing an Introductory Paragraph important?

A:
To help the person score the answer by providing a road map in advance.

Q:
What is the purpose of each Detail Paragraph?

A:
To explain the details related to one main idea.

Q:
What kinds of sentences should be included in each Detail Paragraph?

A:
A Topic Sentence. Detail Sentences.

Q:
What should you do when you review your draft?

A:
Check that I covered the requirements in the question. Check that all the main ideas and details in the outline are covered. Polish the answer.