

Test Taking Skills

Recommendations for Multiple Choice Tests:

Teach/Remind Student:

- Read all directions carefully.
- Read all answer choices and eliminate wrong answers by thinking about why they are wrong.
- Make “intelligent” guesses.
- Differentiate between thought processes involved in choosing correct answer versus choosing wrong answer (except, not).
- Synonyms for directional words (simplify/lowest terms).
- Use a variety of materials for Multiple-choice questions (i.e. videos, pictures, charts, computer, etc.).
- Look carefully at each question and use familiarity to advantage instead of disadvantage. Example: Same picture/different questions
- Understand the kind of questions that are “fair game” to ask a teacher (Questions about directional words. Ex. What does it mean to simplify?)

Recommendations for Constructed Response Questions (Short Answer)

Teach/Remind Students to:

- Understand the question clearly before attempting to answer.
- Check the answer for reasonableness and extent to which the prompt has been addressed after it is answered.
- Restate question as part of the answer to focus on the question being asked.
- Understand Question/Answer/Relationships QAR’s
 1. Some questions are “right there” in the text and require students to use the information from the text/picture/graph to answer the questions.
 2. Answer questions that ask students to use background with text to draw a conclusion. (What will probably happen next?)
 3. Answer questions that ask students how they think about an answer (Carnival) versus how they got the answer (Playground). Recognize the difference between “show your work” and “explain your answer”.
- Use information and details FROM THE TEXT when appropriate.

Specific Recommendations for MAP Tests

- 1. Address all parts of the question:**
 - Highlight directions.
 - For multi-step directions, count the number of steps required in the directions. Put the number at the bottom and circle it.
Check your answer and work to be sure all steps are addressed.
 - Check your answer for reasonableness
- 2. Make reference to specific characters and titles.
Don't use pronouns in your answer.**
- 3. Give specific examples to support your claim. Include specific examples from the text.**
- 4. Show the major steps in your solution process.**
- 5. Include titles and labels on graphic organizers.**
- 6. Restate the question in your answer to focus on the question being asked.**
- 7. Be sure all answers are inside the box provided or at least 1 inch from the margin or folds of the book.**