

## ACT and SAT testing strategies:

### The Quick Fixes

1. No guessing penalty: both ACT and SAT do not penalize a student for wrong answers, so don't leave any answers blank.
2. Time awareness: bring a silent, digital wrist watch as pacing on the tests is crucial. If you go too fast you can make mistakes, too slow and you leave questions incomplete. Sometimes it is hard to keep track or see the clock in the testing room, so having your own watch with a silent alarm can help you keep track of how much time has gone by.
3. Write in the booklet: no one reads or cares what is in the booklet, only what you put on the bubble sheet. Annotate, underline, circle, write out math steps or whatever you need to focus on the details.
4. Refuel: both tests are long, over three hours, which is in line with running a marathon (okay, a fast runner on the 26.2 mile course) versus a sprint. You need to keep your energy up to remained focused and push through the endurance test. Know you will have breaks and bring snacks or a drink that will help re-energize you during the test.

### The Level One Skills

1. Avoid redundancy: on the essays the readers value clear, concise writing. Longer sentences are not necessarily better. Avoid wordy, verbose and excessive language.
2. Answers are in the text: reading sections and math word problems will provide evidence that supports the correct answer. If you can't find evidence in the passage or info graphics to support an answer selection, it is not the correct answer.
3. Use pencil to avoid math mistakes: common errors are made in the math section because students fail to write down steps neatly and completely in the booklet. Avoid mental math. Method and order of operation mistakes are easy to make if you are sloppy with your work.