

Taking a Test

Okay, you've paid attention in class. You've studied in the way that works best for you. Now it's time for the real test.

To do well on a test, you have to know the information that is being tested. But you also need a strategy for taking the test. Imagine that you are an alien from another planet who has just been dropped on Earth. You happen to be more than 7 feet tall, you run fast, and you can throw a round ball. Wow, you'd be a great basketball player – except for one tiny thing: You have no idea how to play the game. You've got all of the ability, but without the strategy, you'll lose every game. Test taking is just like that. So here's a strategy that can help you. Just remember the word **"DECLARE,"** and you'll be ready to roll into your next test with style and ability.

D = Directions

Read the test directions carefully. If there is anything you're not sure of, ask the teacher to explain. You can do well on a test only if you follow directions, and you can follow directions only if you read them. It's that simple.

E = Examine

Examine the entire test to see how much you have to do. Check out the test to see what it is like so that you can be prepared before you start. Then you can plan how to take it.

CL = Clock

Once you've looked at the whole test, check the clock and decide how much time to spend on each part. If one part is worth more points than another, be sure to spend enough time on that section. This is especially important if there is an essay to write. You have to save time to do that carefully.

A = Attack the easiest part

Answer the items you find easiest first. Get them out of the way and you will have more time to concentrate on the harder parts. Besides, answering the easy ones first will make you feel more confident as you prepare to take the rest of the test. Attitude counts for a lot in test taking, so if you feel better about your ability, you'll score better.

RE = Review

Because you planned out your time, you'll have enough time to review at the end of the test. You can go over your answers and make them as good as they can be. Also, review the test directions one last time and be sure you did what you were told to do.

**DECLARE TO THE WORLD THAT YOU ARE A CHAMPION
TEST TAKER!**



Use News To Build Skills



*Learning standards:
creating tests,
generating questions*

You and a partner can use the newspaper to practice taking tests. First, choose a page from the newspaper that has a few articles on it. Each of you will write five test questions about the material on that page. Make them multiple-choice questions, meaning that you will write the question and three answer choices (one of which should be correct). Also, write clear directions for taking your test. Exchange tests with a partner. Use the DECLARE strategy to take the test your partner wrote.