



Testing Strategies for Success

- 1) Circle all of the key words in the test question.
- 2) Underline the actual question. Ask yourself if you understand what the question is asking then, try to reword it. Put the question into your own words.
- 3) Ask the teacher for assistance. There are certain instances where the teacher cannot give you in depth explanations of a question, but they might be able to read the question aloud to you.
- 4) Ask the teacher whether or not you can write on the test booklet. Underlining, circling, or writing down a few key ideas can help you to organize your thoughts and answer the question.
- 5) **For selected response questions:**
 - Eliminate as many answer choices as possible before answering the question.
 - Don't know the answer? Take a guess. Fill in an answer.
 - For selected response questions connected to an excerpt or extended reading passage, **GO BACK INTO THE TEXT**. Chances are that the actual answers are located in the text.
 - When checking selected response questions, underline key words, ideas, or phrases that support the answers you selected. This verifies that you have correctly answered the question.
- 6) **When writing well-developed paragraph or BCRs (Brief Constructed Responses):**
 - Dissect the prompt. Does it have several parts to it? If so, your written response needs to answer all parts to the question.
 - Brainstorm. Organize your thoughts by briefly writing down a few guiding ideas.
 - Do not spend too much time brainstorming. You will go into more detail in the actual piece.
 - Use **RACE (Restate the question. Answer the question. Cite information to support your answer. Explain/Extend your answer.)**
 - Once you have finished writing, go back and reread your response. Check to make sure that you have answered all parts of the question. Check to see that your response makes sense to you.
- 7) When checking your answers, time permitting, go back and reread the question. Treat the question as if you have not answered it. Allow for other answer possibilities than the one you have selected.
- 8) Do you find that you always have extra time when taking a test? **GO BACK AND CHECK YOUR ANSWERS!!!** This is especially important in timed testing situations. Every minute counts so use all of the time allotted for the test.

