## Title: Top 10 Test-Taking Strategies



## Activities

Step 1 Draw three columns on the chalkboard and instruct students to divide their paper into 3 similar columns. Label the first column K, the second column W, and the third column L. The first column is for information they know about taking the GED test. The second column is for what they want to know about taking the GED test. The third column, to be completed later, represents what they learned.

Step 2 Ask students to list what they know about the GED test in the first column. Expect variation in student responses. (Some students may know it is required for graduation, others may know the content areas tested, and some may not know anything because they are new to the program.) Volunteers may share what they know.

Step 3 Next, students should list questions they have in the W column - What do they want to know about the GED test?

Step 4 Distribute "Top 10 Test Taking Tips" handout. Read and discuss as a class. Answer any questions that the students have about the tips.

| Step 5 Finally, students should complete the third column of their chart with information that they learned. If <br> additional questions arise about the GED test or if students had questions that were not answered on the handout, <br> answer those individually or refer students to a study guide (such as in the Pre-GED book) for more information. |
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| Assessment/Evidence <br> Completed K-W-L chart <br> Class discussion |
| Adaptations for Beginning Students |
| Adaptations for Advanced Students <br> Advanced students could create sample multiple-choice questions to illustrate the tips. |
| Teacher Reflection/Lesson Evaluation |
| This lesson was created by Middletown ABLE. |

## Overview

The GED Test covers five subject areas: Reading, Writing, Social Studies, Science, and Mathematics. Except for the essay portion of the Writing Test, the GED Test is composed of five-option multiple choice questions.

## 10 Test Taking Tips

1. Read all directions carefully before you begin. Directions will indicate the time limit for each section of the test and
2. Try to answer the question in your mind BEFORE looking at the choices. If you know the answer and one of the items represents what you were thinking, you have usually found the correct answer.
3. Base your answers on the material presented in the passages. Do not answer based upon your personal experiences. The test is geared toward a general audience and answers will be based only on the information given in the reading passages.

4. Use the Process of Elimination. Wrong answers are often easier to identify than the right answers. Look for answers that are impossible or those that just "sound weird." If you can eliminate two or three choices, your odds of guessing the right answer are much greater.
5. Educated guessing. There are several ways to make your best guess:

- Wrong choices may not answer the question. They may make a statement about the topic, but it is different than the information the question is asking.
- If there are choices with the words always or never, look closely to see if the statement is accurate or whether "frequently" or "sometimes" should have been used. If it isn't always true (or never true), based upon the information in the passage, it is not the correct answer.
- Use similar caution with all of the above or none of the above. Sometimes, two answers are very close. They can't both be right (but they can both be wrong).
- Look for opposite answers so that you can eliminate one. They can't both be right (but they can both be wrong).

6. Order doesn't matter. Complete the questions you know first. Then, go back and complete skipped questions.
7. Answer ALL questions. There is no penalty for guessing on the GED.
8. Watch your time. Don't rush, but pace yourself so that you will have time to complete the test. If you allow yourself one minute per multiple choice question, you should complete the test and have time to review your answers.

9. Trust your instincts. Don't waste precious time changing answers repeatedly. Resist the urge to go back and change your answers unless you have good reason to do so.
10. Mark answer sheets carefully. Your test will be scored by a machine. The machine will count items wrong if it cannot "read" your answer. Circles must be filled in completely in order to be scored (no checkmarks or tiny x's will register). If you change an answer, be sure to erase completely before filling in the correct circle.
