

# Test-Taking Tips

## Before the Test

- Stay up-to-date
- Understand as you learn
- Study in chunks
- Identify important information
  - Concept mapping
  - Class summaries
- Analyze past tests
  - What happened that went well? Went poorly?
- Get the big picture
  - Find out what will be on the test, listen to your professor's description and in-class clues
- Short, manageable study sessions
- Practice essay questions before test
  - How would you describe, predict, compare/contrast
- Memorization techniques
  - Mnemonic
  - Flash cards
- Form a purposeful study group
- Healthy habits
  - Eating well
  - Full night's sleep

## During the Test

- Arrive early
- "Mind dump" before test
- Get the big picture
  - Survey test
  - Strategize your approach
- Breathe, relax, and repeat
- Read all directions carefully
- Easy questions first
- Keep an eye on your remaining time



## Strategies for Multiple-Choice Questions

- Central Idea/main point
- Never, none, except, most, or least? Probably NOT
- If you have to guess...
  - Two similar answers? Choose neither
  - Two Opposite answers? Choose one
  - Choose longest

## Problem Solving

- What do I notice when I break down the question?
- What information is provided?
- Break the problem down
- Does my answer make sense?

## After the Test

- Analyze your results
  - Any trends to missed questions?
    - Are you moving too quickly?
    - Changing correct answers?
    - Misunderstanding the question?
  - Go over it with an expert to implement solutions to the challenges or address content you did not understand
    - This could be an Academic Coach for general study strategies OR
    - Your instructor, GTA, tutor and/or SI leader for content support
- Make changes to address exam mistakes

