

CONTENT-SPECIFIC TIPS

English

- Be aware of the writing style used in each passage.
- Consider the elements of writing that are included in each underlined portion of the passage. Some questions will ask you to base your decision on some specific element of writing, such as the tone or emphasis the text should convey.
- Be aware of questions with no underlined portions—that means you will be asked about a section of the passage or about the passage as a whole.
- Examine each answer choice and determine how it differs from the others. Many of the questions in the test will involve more than one aspect of writing.
- Read and consider all of the answer choices before you choose the one that best responds to the question.
- Determine the best answer.
- Reread the sentence, using your selected answer.

Mathematics

- Read each question carefully to make sure you understand the type of answer required.
- If you choose to use a calculator, be sure it is permitted, is working on test day, and has reliable batteries. [Use your calculator wisely.](#)
- Solve the problem.
- Locate your solution among the answer choices.
- Make sure you answer the question asked.
- Make sure your answer is reasonable.
- Check your work.
- Review the latest information on [permitted and prohibited calculators.](#)
- You are not required to use a calculator. All the problems can be solved without a calculator.
- If you regularly use a calculator in your mathematics work, use one you're familiar with when you take the mathematics test. Using a more powerful, but unfamiliar, calculator is not likely to give you an advantage over using the kind you normally use.

Reading

- Read the passage(s) carefully.
- Read and consider all of the answer choices before you choose the one that best responds to the question.
- Refer to the passage(s) when answering the questions.

Science

- Read the passage carefully.
- Refer to the scientific information in the passage when answering the question.

- Read and consider all of the answer choices before you choose the one that best responds to the question.
- Note conflicting viewpoints in some passages.

Tips for the ACT Writing Test

- Carefully read the [instructions](#) on the cover of the test booklet.
- Do some planning before writing the essay; you will be instructed to do your prewriting in your writing test booklet. You can refer to these notes as you write the essay on the lined pages in your answer folder.
- Do not skip lines and do not write in the margins. Write your essay legibly, in English, with a No. 2 pencil. Do not use ink, a mechanical pencil, or correction fluid.
- **Carefully read and consider all prompt material.** Be sure you understand the issue, its perspectives, and your essay task.
- The prewriting questions included with the prompt will help you analyze the perspectives and develop your own.
- Use these questions to think critically about the prompt and generate effective ideas in response. Ask yourself how your ideas and analysis can best be supported and organized in a written argument.
- Use the prewriting space in your test booklet to structure or outline your response.
- Establish the focus of your essay by making clear your argument and its main ideas. Explain and illustrate your ideas with sound reasoning and meaningful examples.
- Discuss the significance of your ideas: what are the implications of what you have to say, and why is your argument important to consider?
- As you write, ask yourself if your logic is clear, you have supported your claims, and you have chosen precise words to communicate your ideas.
- Take a few minutes, before time is called, to read over your essay:
 - Correct any mistakes in grammar, usage, punctuation, and spelling.
 - If you find any words that are hard to read, recopy them.
 - Make any corrections and revisions neatly, between the lines. Do not write in the margins.