

STRATEGY SUMMARY

ESSAY STRATEGIES

My Notes

1. Begin by reading the source text and the prompt.
2. Write an analysis of the source text. Do not write about topics outside of the prompt.
3. Remember to analyze the author's argument and use textual evidence to back up your analysis. Do not write about your own opinion of the topic.
4. Do not try to do too much. Try to focus on the most important features or aspects of the source text.
5. Organize your thoughts and write an outline before beginning the essay. Do not spend more than nine minutes analyzing the passage and writing the outline.
 - a) Familiarize yourself with the source text and the essay prompt.
 - b) Analyze the author's argument.
 - c) Develop a thesis.
 - d) Identify three to four important points or features of the author's writing.
 - e) Decide on the order of presentation of the major points.
6. Organize ideas into paragraphs.
 - a) Begin with an introduction.
 - b) Create three to four body paragraphs.
 - c) End with a conclusion.
7. Write using correct grammar.
8. Write clearly, concisely, and legibly.
9. Punctuate and spell correctly.
10. Spend a few minutes proofreading your essay.
 - a) Make sure the essay answers the prompt, analyzes the source text, and provides sufficient textual evidence to support the analysis.
 - b) Make sure the essay has a thesis statement.

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- c) Make sure the essay has body paragraphs, each of which presents a set of evidence to support the thesis statement.
- d) Make sure each body paragraph has a topic sentence.
- e) Make sure all the sentences in each paragraph are relevant to that paragraph and the main point of the essay.
- f) Make sure each body paragraph includes specific details or examples from the source text to support the analysis.
- g) Make sure the essay has a conclusion that reiterates the thesis statement and summarizes the analysis.
- h) Make sure the language choice in the essay is simple, concise, and direct.
- i) Check for any structural errors.
- j) Check for any grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors.

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