

Strategies for Essay Questions

1. Make sure that you understand what the directions are asking you to do.
2. If possible, turn the question into a statement that becomes your thesis statement. Ex. Discuss the reasons America won its independence, your thesis could say, “There are six primary reasons why America won its war for independence.”
3. To make sure you answer all parts, underline or circle key words or phrases, and number the parts asked for in the question.
4. Write well-organized answers. Plan just as if the answer were an essay for English class.
 - a. Have a clear & simple thesis statement.
 - b. Plan your major points. Don't take the chance that they just happen.
5. Write complete answers. Write more than you think you need. (if you have time)
6. Budget your time. Outline what you plan to write.
7. Proofread! Proofread! Proofread!