

# Testing, testing, 1 2 3

**Strategies for Taking  
Standardized Tests**

# **'Twas the Night Before Testing**

- Go to bed on time.**
- Put a few number 2 pencils with erasers in your backpack.**
- Solve family/friend problems before the testing date.**
- Talk to your parents about any concerns that you might have about the test.**



# **The Morning of Testing**

- **Start your day as you always do.**
- **Eat a good breakfast.**
- **Think of what you will do to relax after you get home from school.**
- **Think Positive!**

# Multiple Choice Questions

- If you do not understand the directions, ask for help.
- Read the question and *all* answer choices before marking anything.

# Pace Yourself

- **Don't spend too much time on any one question. Do your best and then move on.**
- **Answers the easiest questions first, but be sure to go back to those questions you skipped.**

# **Multiple Choice Questions**

- **Do not change your answers unless you are very uncertain about your first answer choice.**
- **Try to answer every question. Make the most intelligent guess you can.**

# The Process of Elimination

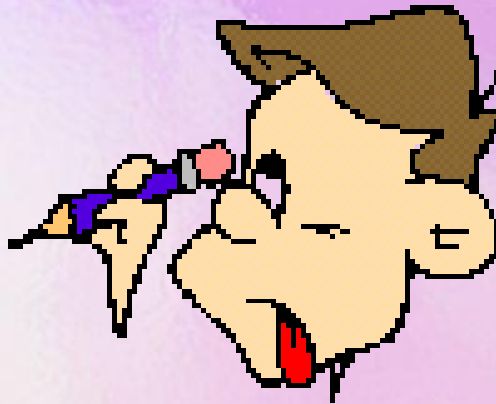
- After you have been through all of the questions once, go back and find questions you have some knowledge about and eliminate choices that you know are incorrect.



I know **C** isn't  
the answer!

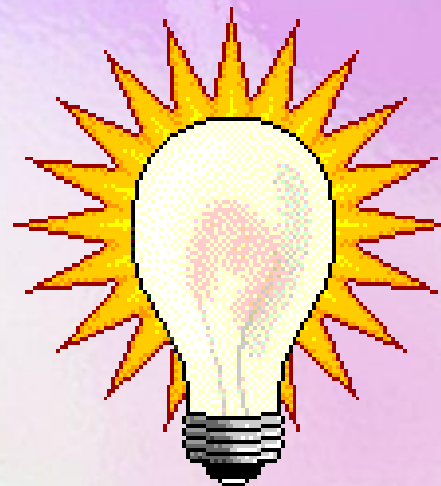
# The Process of Elimination

- If you can eliminate two wrong answers, your chance of choosing the right answer is greater.



# Answering Questions

- **Don't guess blindly, but if you have time to think about the best answer choice, make it!**



# Skip, Return, Check

- **If you finish early, check to make sure you have answered all questions.**



# Key Words

- Find **key words** or **phrases** in the question that will help you choose the correct answer.



# **Are we communicating?**

- **Make sure you understand what the question is asking.**
- **Be sure you are responding to the question that is being asked.**

# Reading Passages

- If the test requires you to read passages and then answer questions about what you read, **read the questions first.**
- By doing this, you will know what you are looking for as you read. This also helps you go faster on the test.

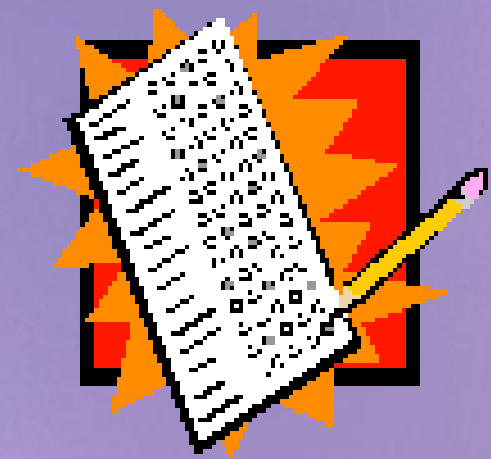
# Reading Passages

- When there are several questions about a reading passage or chart, look for **clues** in other questions that will help you with those items about which you are unsure.

# A Matter of Time

- If any time remains, spend it on those questions about which you know nothing or almost nothing.
- As you go back through, do not change all answers.
- ***Remember: Your first guess is usually right.***

# Final Tips



- **Fill in bubbles fully, write neatly, and erase stray marks.**
- **Double-check the test number in your test booklet against the answer sheet every few questions to be sure you haven't gotten on the wrong number.**



# The Death Grip

- **If your arm tires during testing it is probably due to the grip that you have on your pencil.**
- **Relax the grip and give those muscles a break.**
- **Do not do arm exercises during testing as this disturbs others.**

# Thank you, Mr. Know-it-all!

- Remember **it's okay not to know everything** — unlike class tests, these tests will have some questions designed to challenge the limits of your knowledge of current and previous grade levels.