



Essay Exam Strategies Quiz

Sponsored by The Center for Teaching and Learning at UIS



1. Why do instructors give essay exams?
 - a. To torture students
 - b. To allow students to demonstrate critical and analytical thinking skills
 - c. To allow students to articulate what they have learned
 - d. B and C
2. T/F To reduce test anxiety, you should sit clear in the back so the instructor does not watch you.
3. T/F You should answer the most difficult questions first.
4. T/F You should focus on the process of answering the question rather than the correct answer.
5. T/F If you are given a take home exam, you should wait until the last possible minute to complete it.
6. T/F Outlines are vital to writing a cohesive, intelligent essay.
7. T/F It is better to say "toward the end of the 19th century" than to say "in 1894" when you can't remember, whether it's 1884 or 1894.
8. T/F You should never do an "information dump," but should write down the information only as it comes up.
9. T/F Legible handwriting is not important on an essay exam, only the ideas are.
10. What are the two types of essay exams discussed in this workshop? _____ and _____

Matching: Draw lines to match the strategy with the correct essay exam type.

In Class: Receive Questions ahead of time

Make outlines for each possible question

Proofread

Look for themes in each piece or section

In-Class – Don't Receive Questions Ahead of Time

Select a quote or two for each question

Check writing – Is it academic?

Come to the CTL for help

Take-Home Essay Exams

Arrange a study group

Outline your essay

Focus study on main topics and things the instructor has repeated or focused on

Find quotes – Watch length, make relevant

Find general issues that run throughout the class

Brainstorm possible questions and prepare outlines for those

Don't wait until the last minute

Analyze