

Test Taking Strategies – lecture outline

Preparation:

Tell students that in the next class period, we will be discussing strategies for taking tests.

Ask them to be prepared to answer the following questions:

- How comfortable do you feel taking tests?
- What makes test taking so difficult?
- Why is taking tests an important skill?

Pass out “Test Anxiety Quiz” and ask them to fill it out and bring it to class.

Discussion:

1. Preparation questions

Put students into small groups. Have them discuss the answers to the preparation questions for a few minutes. Then ask for general answers from the class.

- How comfortable do you feel taking tests?
Ask them to rate themselves as very comfortable, pretty comfortable, fairly uncomfortable, and very uncomfortable. Ask for a show of hands for each and comment.
- What makes test taking so difficult?
The pressure is on; a lot is riding on your performance.
- Why is taking tests an important skill?
It will have a big effect on grades, performance under stress is important in most jobs as well

2. Test Anxiety

Ask students to pull out the “Test Anxiety Quiz”. Quickly go through the questions with a raise of hands for 0, 1, 2 for each. Comment if needed.

Pass out the “What can you do about Test Anxiety” handout. Go through it with the class.

3. Test Taking Strategies

Pass out “Test Taking Strategies” handout.

Go through each item with the students. Ask them to consider how well they do at each one, and put a star next to ones that they think would be helpful to them.

Ask a few students to volunteer which items they thought would be most useful.

Assignment

Look through the items on the “Test Taking Strategies” handout. Choose 3-5 things that you feel would help you improve your test taking skills.

Write a one page journal entry about your current test taking skills, and what you intend to do to improve them.