

Paddy Eger Educating America News on Schools

A Newsletter Supporting k-8 Classrooms Volunteerism

Winter, 2017

Volume 17:1



This quarter's newsletter is focused on
Study Skills related to Testing.

OutFoxing Tests



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Standardized tests are here for the next foreseeable future. Their redeeming qualities include: objective assessments and the information on how students grow in their learning. Their downsides include their taking so much time away from classroom learning and their stressful properties while taking the tests.

There are ways to level out those concerns and use the positives of testing throughout the year. So how can we out fox the stress and the suspected "teaching to the test"? Here are activities and games to engage students and get you started rethinking test prep time to use throughout the school year.

Institute rereading questions and answers on a daily basis. First read: grab the basic information. Second read: look for /consider key words, topic sentences and locating deeper meaning/ideas.

For younger students encourage them to (1) read the questions before reading the text. If allowed, suggest they underline key words as they read or enter key words on a notebook saved for evaluating their reading of any materials. (2) Suggest they reread the text before answering the questions and ask themselves: What is the main idea of what I read?

Older students include opportunities for them to write challenges to each other in the form of True-False and multiple choice questions. Encourage them to include faulty or wrong choices which will encourage students to use careful reading as well as time analyzing the words used. Discuss strategies to select their best guess but base that choice on clues found in rereading the text and scrutinizing the possible answers for keywords.

Expect the person who wrote the questions to provide evidence (specific source, page, and paragraph) for their correct answer(s).

Quotes to Ponder

*The most certain way to succeed is
always to try just one more time..*

~ **Thomas A. Edison**

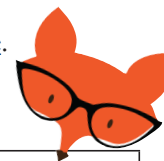
*There is no elevator to success. You have
to take the stairs..*

~ **Anonymous**

What's Your TEST I.Q. ??

The TEST I.Q. chart contains 36 suggestions to consider throughout the year (at home and at school) in preparation for taking tests.

Read through the ideas (You will find a complete downloadable chart) & various suggestions (also online) [on my website - click here.](#)



My name is Paddy Eger. I'm a retired teacher, a volunteer trainer, a classroom volunteer, a blogger and a writer across several genre. When I'm not writing YA novels, my focus is on encouraging adults to volunteer in classrooms

One of the greatest pleasures of my week is stepping into classrooms to support teachers and students. I'm one of those retired educators who can't stay away. I enjoy helping students with reading and writing and watching the ah-ha's light up their faces.

As you read through this newsletter I hope you will share your ideas and comments with me through my email Paddy@PaddyEger.com. You are invited to share this information with other interested persons. All I ask is that you credit me as your source and include my website address. —Thanks.

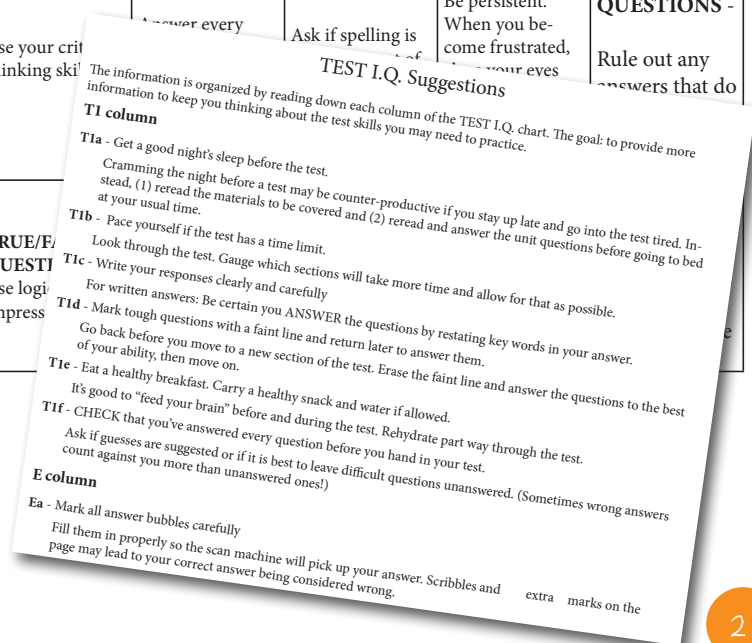
Find me on:



and



T ₁	E	S	T ₂	I.	Q.
Get a good night's sleep the night before the test.	Mark all answer boxes carefully.	Breathe deeply between questions.	Read each direction twice before beginning each section.	Practice following directions and using memory tools.	Have your tools ready.
Pace yourself if the test has a time limit.	Block out distractions.	Use logic when you think about your answer.	Wear comfy clothes.	Watch for and use key words.	Reread the most believable answers before you decide which one provides the best answer.
Write your responses clearly and carefully.	Read for the main idea.	RELAX	ESSAY QUESTIONS - include evidence you read in the text.	Make educated guesses when you are in doubt about the answer.	Ask questions when you need assistance.
Mark tough questions with a faint line and return later to answer them.	Read the questions before you begin reading the selection.	Read the text TWICE before you answer the questions.	Mentally x-out answers that aren't relevant/appropriate or realistic.	Show your thinking when asked. Write/Draw clearly.	Rest your eyes and move to loosen your hands, shoulders, and back periodically.
Eat a healthy breakfast. Carry a healthy snack and water if allowed.	Use your critical thinking skills.	Answer every question.	Ask if spelling is needed.	Be persistent. When you become frustrated, take a break and rest your eyes.	MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS - Rule out any answers that do not make sense.
CHECK that you've answered every question before you hand in your test.	TRUE/FALSE QUESTIONS - Use logic to impress.				



Resources on Testing

- Book: True or False? Tests Stink (laugh and Learn) by Trevor Romain and Elizabeth Verdick. Covers all forms of testing.
- Book: Test Success: Test Taking & Study Strategies for All Students including ADD & LD by Blythe Grossbrog, PsyD.
- Check online: Test Taking Skills Worksheets (hundreds of printable samples) Amazon or through your favorite book seller for test taking books.

One Way to Look at It (Q&A)

Dear Paddy,

My twins are facing a battery of tests in March. Last year during testing they were so anxious I was afraid they'd become physically ill from the stress. What suggestions do you have?

signed Tested Parent

Dear Tested Parent,

Remember back to instances when you've felt stress yourself. Maybe you were taking tests or faced crucial situations? Anxiety is natural, but, if you begin now and introduce the suggestions found in the Test IQ details, you may be able to help them cope.

Sit down with them. Select the key issues from the list and any other issues that are bothering them. Read through the suggested details from the download and work with those ideas to give them strategies to help them handle their frustration. Try to complete as many as possible in a low-key manner beginning the month before the testing begins. Keep me posted.

Need Tools for Organization?

Tired of kids in small groups needing a sharp pencil? a paper clip? scissors? Want a way to keep them focused and seated?

Each pouch can be fastened into a 3-ring notebook or kept loose in the zip closed pouch. It's easy to grab up and take outside the classroom.

Kits are available for \$6.50 USD each and includes tax and shipping within the U.S. Supplies are limited. Receive delivery within 14 business days.



I want to hear from you!

Tell me about your adult assistant achievements, successes and challenges.

I welcome your feedback, ideas for future newsletter content and contact information for anyone you would like to receive this free resource.

I'm available for interviews, speaking, training seminars and guest blogging.

Write me at Paddy@PaddyEger.com or call 425- 420-5161 for more information.



Small Group Tool Pouch

FINAL NOTES

Getting kids organized is like building Rome; it won't happen overnight. Pick out three most important tasks, help kids become comfortable and able to use them, then add one or two more and repeat. If you model the skills you wish to see in kids, it helps!

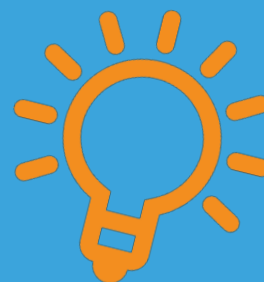
Looking for Ideas to Train Para Educators or Classroom Volunteers?

Training classroom support takes more time than most educators have available.

Book a training session today!!

- * Sessions are tailor-made to meet your needs.
- * Presentations are hands-on and interactive.
- * Training sessions range from 45 minutes to 3 hours.

Want details? Contact me, Paddy Eger, at 425-420-5161 (west coast business hours). Together we'll create a plan that works for you anytime of the year.

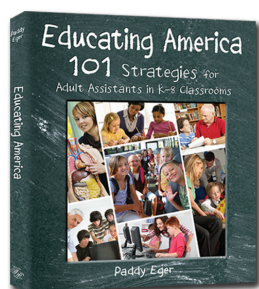


Educating America materials provide quick and easy ideas!

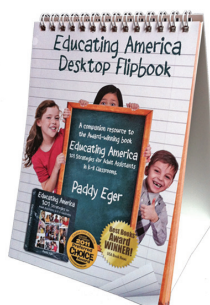
They include the award-winning *Educating America: 101 Strategies for Adults in K-8 Classrooms*, a desktop flipbook and a workbook. Take a look inside each when you visit www.paddyeger.com and select the Educating America portion of the website.

The book, flipbook, and workbook are available from your favorite bookstores, Tendril Press, and online sources for ebooks. At this time, the student reminder cards are available through my website www.paddyeger.com, at Teacher's Notebook and Teachers Pay Teachers or by contacting me directly at 425-420-5161.

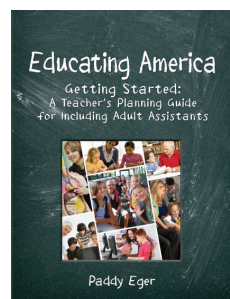
Check out my materials online as seen on www.TeachersPayTeachers.com and on www.TeachersNotebook.com. Both resources also provide parent ideas as well as information for educators.



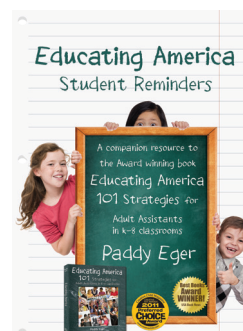
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