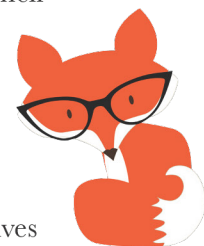


Study Skills related to Testing.

OutFoxing Tests

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?

For older students, turn this activity in to a class game. 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).

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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 bundle 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.

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 important.	Be persistent. When you become frustrated, take a break for your eyes.	MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS - Rule out any answers that do
CHECK that you've answered every question before you hand in your test.	TRUE/FALSE QUESTIONS Use logic to impress				

TEST I.Q. Suggestions

The information is organized by reading down each column of the TEST I.Q. chart. The goal: to provide more information to keep you thinking about the test skills you may need to practice.

T1 column

T1a - Get a good night's sleep before the test.
Cramming the night before a test may be counter-productive if you stay up late and go into the test tired. Instead, (1) reread the materials to be covered and (2) reread and answer the unit questions before going to bed at your usual time.

T1b - Pace yourself if the test has a time limit.
Look through the test. Gauge which sections will take more time and allow for that as possible.

T1c - Write your responses clearly and carefully
For written answers: Be certain you ANSWER the questions by restating key words in your answer.

T1d - Mark tough questions with a faint line and return later to answer them.
Go back before you move to a new section of the test. Erase the faint line and answer the questions to the best of your ability, then move on.

T1e - Eat a healthy breakfast. Carry a healthy snack and water if allowed.
It's good to "feed your brain" before and during the test. Rehydrate part way through the test.

T1f - CHECK that you've answered every question before you hand in your test.
Ask if guesses are suggested or if it is best to leave difficult questions unanswered. (Sometimes wrong answers count against you more than unanswered ones!)

E column

Ea - Mark all answer bubbles carefully
Fill them in properly so the scan machine will pick up your answer. Scribbles and extra marks on the page may lead to your correct answer being considered wrong.

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 Grossbog, 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.



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.

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!

FINAL NOTES

The suggested activities are fun, easy-to-step into and invite active learning. Efficiently engaging students is imperative as we strive to develop their communication skills in our classrooms and on into other activities in their lives.

~Paddy Eger

Looking for Ideas to Train Para Educators or Classroom Volunteers?

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

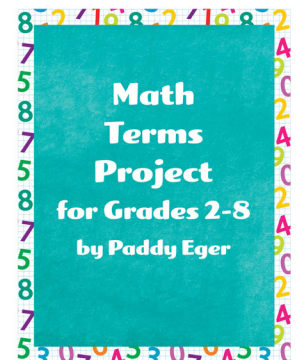
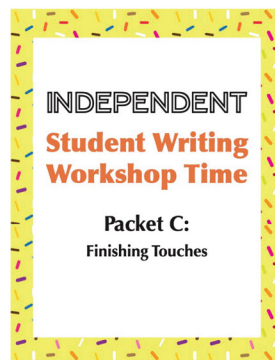
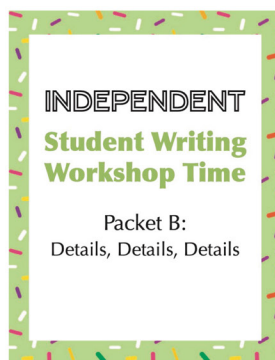
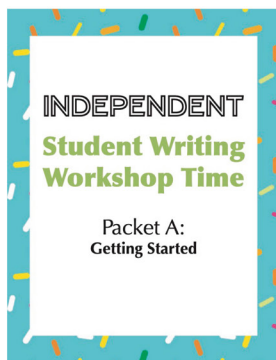
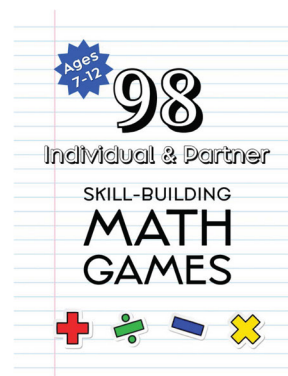
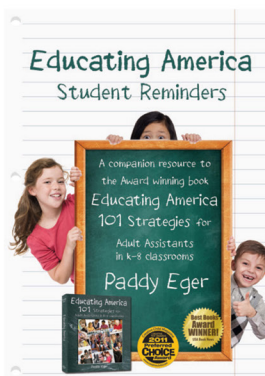
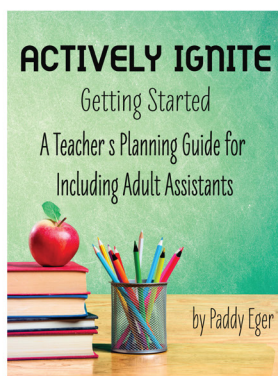
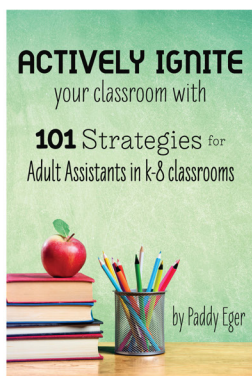
Contact Paddy Eger, 425-420-5161 (PST), to book hands on, tailor made training session today!!

Together we'll create a plan that works for you anytime of the year.

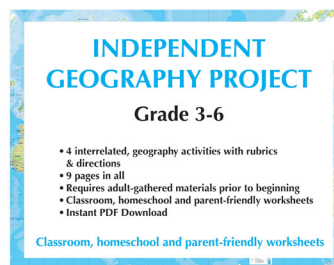
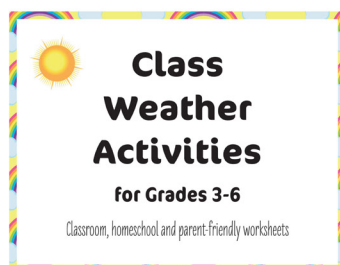


Educating America materials provide quick and easy ideas!

They include the award-winning *Actively Ignite: 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.



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