

STAAR Strategies:

*****Write your expository essay FIRST!!!*****

The English I STAAR Test is divided into 3 parts:

Writing (Revising & Editing)	Reading Comprehension	Expository Essay
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You do NOT need to read the entire passage before looking at the questions. For these passages, the questions will point you to a particular sentence or paragraph. Go straight to the part it's asking you to revise. You may also want to read the sentence before and after. This will give you a sense of context. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You MUST read the entire passage for reading comprehension texts because the questions will ask you about main ideas, author's purpose, etc. Read the questions <i>before</i> you read the passage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WRITE THIS FIRST. As soon as you begin your test, skip to the expository essay part and complete your essay before moving on to multiple choice. Use the 3 step process to break down the prompt <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify the prompt. It's the sentence that starts with "Write an essay..." CROSS OUT AND IGNORE EVERYTHING ELSE! 2. Turn the prompt into a question. 3. Answer the question using two specific examples (try to pick on personal example and one example from history, a book, movie, etc. THIS SENTENCE BECOMES YOUR THESIS STATEMENT. <p><u>EXPOSITORY ESSAY FORMAT:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction: Hook + Thesis Statement 2. Body Paragraph #1: Topic sentence, example #1 from thesis statement, explanation. 3. Body Paragraph #2: Topic sentence, example #2 from thesis statement, explanation. 4. Conclusion: Restate thesis, universal connection (So what? Why does this matter on a global scale?)

Other Tips:

- EAT A GOOD BREAKFAST** (Hunger leads to mental fatigue and that's the last thing you want on a major test)
- SLEEP.** At least 8 hours the night before the test.
- TAKE YOUR TIME.** You have FIVE hours to complete the exam. Use as much of that time as you need. DO NOT be in a rush to finish your test.
- USE THE DICTIONARY!!!** Many of the Writing passages ask about spelling and word definitions. These are FREE test answers. Just use the dictionaries provided.
- GIVE YOURSELF A MENTAL BREAK.** Every hour or so, take a 5 minute break to let your brain rest. Go to the restroom or simply put your pencil down.
- DON'T SPEND TOO MUCH TIME ON ONE QUESTION.** If you don't know the answer, make a note to return to that question, move on, and then come back later.
- WRITE NEATLY AND BUBBLE ANSWERS CLEARLY!** If a STAAR essay grader can't read your essay, they will automatically fail your paper. The same is true for answer documents that are not filled in clearly.
- BE POSITIVE!** If you walk into the exam thinking you're going to fail, you probably will. Go in confident! We've been practicing this stuff all semester!