

Rutgers Learning Centers

At Camden Campus

ESSAY EXAMS - STRATEGIES

1. Understand the question.

Look for action words to identify all parts of the question.

Look for key terms. Then repeat those key terms throughout the essay so your answer is coherent.

2. In the margin, jot down (in pencil) the main points you want to make.

3. In the opening paragraph, write a direct answer to the question in one or two sentences.

4. Begin a new paragraph for each point.

Support your points by giving specific names, dates, examples. End with a sentence or paragraph that summarizes your answer.

5. Pretend that the reader knows nothing about the topic.

This will help you to answer clearly, without leaving out details.

6. Write something for every question.

If you don't know an answer, wing it. Using common sense alone might get you some credit.

7. Proofread your answers.

It's better to hand in an exam with lots of corrections than one with wrong answers!

8. Leave the back of each page blank so that you can insert additional information later.

For more information, visit or call your nearest Rutgers Learning Center, or visit our website:<http://rlc.rutgers.edu>

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