

# English STAAR Test-Taking Strategies

## Test Day:

**Tuesday, March 28, 2017**



Be sure to ask for a **DICTIONARY** and a **HIGHLIGHTER** to use throughout the **ENTIRE TEST**.

Total Test Time: 5 Hours. Do not rush through the test.

### Writing Section

- Budget 2.5 hours for the entire section
- Write the **ESSAY FIRST** before answering any multiple-choice questions
  - Correctly **HIGHLIGHT** the **PROMPT** (usually starts with the words **WRITE AN ESSAY**)

FOR EXAMPLE:

-----  
Read the information in the box below

In 1911, Marie Curie was awarded a Nobel Prize for both Chemistry and Physics due to her discoveries with radiation. Curie's work propelled medical science through her discovery of the X-ray. Like Marie Curie, many other individuals have made a positive impact in various fields.

In order to make a positive impact on society, we should leave the world better than we found it.

Write an essay explaining the importance of making a positive impact on society.

Be sure to—

- Clearly state your thesis
- Organize and develop your ideas effectively
- Choose your words carefully
- Edit your writing for grammar, mechanics

- 
- Writing the essay should take no more than 1 hour:
    - ❖ 10 minutes to **BRAINSTORM** (DEFINE IT, REMEMBER IT, CONNECT IT, SO WHAT?)
    - ❖ 25 minutes to write a **ROUGH DRAFT**
    - ❖ 10 minutes to **REVISE** and **EDIT**
    - ❖ 15 minutes to **NEATLY** write the **FINAL DRAFT**
  - Use a **DICTIONARY** for the revising and editing passages and questions.
  - Read each passage slowly and carefully. Make notes on the passage when you find errors.

## Reading Section

- Budget 2.5 hours for the entire section.
- Read the questions before reading the passages.
- Read and annotate (summarize and note devices) a passage then **IMMEDIATELY** answer the questions for that passage before moving on to the next reading selection.
- Some answers are found directly in the text while others come from making inferences. Inference means taking your prior knowledge AND what the text says and making an educated guess.
- SPECIFIC STRATEGIES TO USE...
  - Process of Elimination Method:
    - ❖ Eliminate any OBVIOUSLY WRONG answer choices
    - ❖ Eliminate any answer choices that are TOO BROAD OR TOO NARROW in scope; these answer choices include unnecessary, extra information or not enough information to satisfy the question
    - ❖ Eliminate ILLOGICAL answer choices (these don't make sense)
    - ❖ If two answer choices are close (and there will be some that seem somewhat reasonable), choose the BEST answer—the answer choice that answers ALL PARTS of the question
  - Substitution Method (fill-in-the-blank):
    - ❖ REPHRASE the question, leaving a blank where the answer should be
    - ❖ Fill in the blank with each answer choice until you find the BEST answer to the question
  - Context Clues Method:
    - ❖ When a question directs you to a specific set of lines, words, or phrases, LOCATE THE REFERENCE
    - ❖ Read the sentence PRECEDING the reference, the sentence OF the reference, and the sentence FOLLOWING the reference
    - ❖ Choose the BEST answer to the question