**General ACT Advice**

1. What does the ACT test?

* How well you take the ACT
* Composite score average on 4 tests (English, Math, Reading, & Science)

1. College Readiness Benchmark Scores: the scores below predicts 50% or high probability of earning a B or higher on a corresponding college course

* English 18
* Math 22
* Reading 21
* Science 24

1. For the ACT, to maximize your composite score, concentrate on highest/strongest section
2. Letter of the day, select any letter and consistently use it to answer all questions you blindly guess or do not have time to complete.
3. At the 5 minute warning, fill in letter of the day for remaining questions and then go back and answer what you can and change your answer as needed.

**English** – 75 questions, 45 minutes, 5 passages with 15 questions each

* Usage and mechanics (grammar)
* Rhetorical skills (organization and style)
* Favorites are: verbs, pronouns, apostrophes, transitions, concision

**Math** – 60 questions, 60 minutes

* Personal Order of Difficulty: Take the test twice (now, later, never)
  + First time answer the questions that you can answer now (easy) and use your letter of the day to answer your never questions (hard).
  + Second time answer your later questions (questions you can get correct if you have time to focus).
* Plugging in strategy: choose any number for the variables and match with the answer choices
* Plugging in answers strategy: answers are in ascending order so start with C and use process of elimination to continue
* Average pie strategy can be use when the problem provides averages with the data

**Reading** – 40 questions, 35 minutes, 4 passages with 10 questions each

* Prose fiction
* Social science (non-fiction)
* Humanities (non-fiction)
* Natural science (non-fiction)
* Strategy: map the questions and then answer in the order of the map
* Process of elimination – cross out the following
  + Not mentioned in the passage
  + Only half of the answer is right = all wrong
  + Overly strong language
  + Too literal
  + Goes beyond the text (assumption)

**Science** – 40 questions, 35 minutes, 7 passages

* 7 Passages
  + 3 charts and graphs (5 questions each)
  + 3 experiments (6 questions each)
  + 1 fighting scientists (7 questions each)
* Charts, graphs, & experiments strategy
  + Work the graphs
    - Mark the trends
    - Notice the variables & their relationships
    - Notice the units
  + Work the questions
    - Find the necessary info
    - Read only if and what you need
* Fighting scientists strategy
  + Read the intro
  + Review and number the questions
  + Work one passage at a time
    - Take notes when finished with each passage
  + Save dual questions for last
    - If you have 2 answers that are direct opposites, it’s ALWAYS one of them