



STEP BY STEP MENTORING PROGRAM

Caring and Growing...Together

“DETER Strategy for Test Taking”

To do well on a test, you must have a solid knowledge of the information that is being tested. You must also have a strategy for taking the test that allows you to show what you know. The DETER strategy can help you do your best on any test. Each letter in DETER reminds you what to do.

D= Directions

- Read the test directions carefully and thoroughly.
- Ask your teacher to explain anything about the directions you do not understand.
- Only by following the directions can you achieve a passing score on the test.
- If you do not follow the directions, you will not be able to demonstrate what you know.

E = Examine

- Examine the ENTIRE test to see how much you have to do.
- Only by knowing the entire task can you break it down into parts that become manageable for you.



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T = Time

- Once you have examined the entire test, decide how much time you will spend on each item.
- Plan to spend the **most** time on the items that **count for the most points**.
- Planning your time is especially important for essay tests. Avoid spending too much time on one item or you have little time left for the other items.

E= Easiest

- The second **E** in **DETER** reminds you to answer the items you find **easiest first**
- If you get stuck on a difficult item that comes up early in the test, you may not get to answer items that test things you do know.

R= Review

- If you have planned your time accordingly, you will have time to review your answers and make them as complete and accurate as possible.
- Also, make sure to review the test directions to be certain you have answered all items.
- **Remember: DETER (Directions, Examine, Time, Easiest, Review)**

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