Test Taking Tips

- Take notes as you're reading a chapter (point form)
- Learn to skim: Most important/least important information
- Learn to make tables, charts, diagrams and point form notes. Do not study paragraphs because this may confuse you
- Quiz yourself aloud (out loud) by yourself or with a friend
- Write down teachers notes in point form- DON'T just read them over- This doesn't work
- Come up with Mnemonic Devices to remember: e.g. poems, acronyms, songs etc.
  E.g. **K**ing **H**enry **D**ied **D**rinking **C**hocolate **M**ilk is used to remember Kilo, Hecta, Deca, Deci, Centi, Milli

CASI: Tips

Summarizing and Main Idea (#1, #2 on Casi)

Summarizing

1. Read the whole passage
2. Reread each paragraph- STOP and write one sentence (or highlight if you can) that tells the main idea of that tells the main idea of that paragraph
3. Read all the sentences again. Cross out the least important
4. Continue removing the least important until you are left with 5-6 sentences
5. Pick one 'a general one' that tells about all the others- This will be your topic sentence
6. Use the rest as supporting details
8. Add lots of adjectives (describing words) to make your paragraph more interesting
9. End off with a 'Closing Sentence'- this should be a strong sentence to sum up the whole paragraph

Effective Summaries Have
- A title and author
- Topic Sentence
- 3-5 main ideas
- Concluding sentence
- Does not include opinion- only fact
- Own words

<u>**Point of View**</u>

- State the author's message/theme/purpose
- Ask yourself: Why did the author write this?
- Make inferences
- Analyze information

<u>**Vocabulary/Conventions- (#3 in CASI)**</u>

<u>Dash and Hyphen:</u> The hyphen (-) is a punctuation mark used to join words and to separate syllables of a single word. It is often confused with dashes (–, —, ─), which are longer and have different uses, and with the minus sign (−) which is also longer.

<u>Semicolon:</u> A semicolon (;) is a conventional punctuation mark with several uses, mainly for pauses in sentences and breaks in lists.

<u>Comma:</u> The comma (,) is used in many contexts and languages, principally for separating things.

<u>Italics:</u> *Are slanted text* used to show what the author/writer is thinking. They are also used to indicate which word the speaker emphasized.

<u>Parentheses: ( )</u> are used to add more information and specific detail (e.g. names)

<u>Quotations:</u> "" are speech marks. They represent exact language (either spoken or written) that has come from somebody else.

<u>Direct Quotations:</u> involve incorporating another person's exact words into your own writing.

Similes: Using 'Like' or 'as' in a sentence to make the writing more interesting. E.g. She ran like the wind or her skin is as smooth as butter

Capital Letters: have many purposes
1. Proper nouns (the names of specific people, places, organizations, and sometimes things)
2. They are used in titles

Text Features-(#4, #5 in CASI)

Characteristics of a Narrative:

plot	Setting
introduction	Theme
climax	Point of View
conflict	Sequencing
resolution	Transition
characterization	

Characteristics of a Newspaper Article:
- The 5 W's- Who, what, when, why, how
- Headline: Is the title of the article
- Lead/Important Facts: Most important information at the beginning, the least important is at the end
- Byline: is the author
- Quotes: Gives life to the story, and adds more detail
- Sidebar: Is a one sentence summary near the title
- Ending: Gives the reader something to remember e.g. a memorable quote

Characteristics of a Non-Fiction article
- Title
- Byline: summary sentence
- Pictures/Captions

- Fast facts
- Date
- Quotations
- Bolded Words

Different kinds of Font: To show emphasis on a word or sentence

Large Bolded Text: To make the information stand out from the rest

Examples of Characteristics of people: (#6 in CASI)

Educated	Happy
Honest	Determined
Strong	Excited
Passionate	Grateful
Focused	Nice
Forgiving	Outgoing
Optimistic	Talkative
Spiritual	Courageous
Sympathetic	Empathetic

Other Anchor Charts That May Come in Handy

Writing an Opinion Paragraph

1. Review the T-Chart to decide which point of view you will be taking in your writing
2. State your opinion in the first sentence by using key words from the question (e.g. I believe kids 12 and under should not be allowed to watch the Simpsons). Keep it short and to the point. Do NOT include the word

'because' in your first sentence. You will prove your point throughout your paragraph
3. Refer to the T-Chart and check off the facts you will use to write supporting sentences
4. In the body of your paragraph, include specific examples or facts that clearly show what your are trying to prove. (e.g. Homer is an alcoholic and a bad influence- he is often drinking beer and driving drunk)
5. Write a concluding sentence that will answer the question and sum up your opinion
6. Add adjectives to make it more interesting
Read over your paragraph to make sure it flows and says what you want it to say.

Making Connections

1. Look over the text features before reading, make connection to the title, pictures, captions, diagrams, ect.
2. Read the whole passage
3. Reread each paragraph. Stop to 'Code the Text' and record a sentence to state your connection
<div align="center">

TT: text to text
TS: text to self
TW: text to world
</div>

4. Think about how the connections can help you better understand the passage read

Analyzing Text Features

Pictures	Headings	Index
Diagrams	Subheadings	Glossary
Charts	Table of contents	Bulleted lists
Graphs	Italics	Footnotes
Captions	Symbols	Bolded words