

How to Practice for a Writing Exam

1. Actively study your lecture notes and material from your reading assignments. Practice the “rule of 3” – for every hour you spend learning the material in class, spend three hours outside of class reviewing the material.
2. Make a list of important characters, settings, major plot points, themes and concepts that you find in your notes and your reading assignments. Connect these with the themes and concepts your professor highlights in the lectures.
3. Find out how the exam is going to be structured. Types of questions can vary from essay, true/false, multiple-choice, and matching. Having an idea of the structure of the exam can help you when you are studying and putting together a practice exam.
4. Take a practice exam. Try to challenge yourself. Work on writing essays that display your knowledge of the readings. Write your own questions that assess your knowledge of the information in a variety of ways.
5. Come to the SSC for tutoring. If you are having trouble with some of the concepts, the tutors at the Student Success Center are here to help you. We offer tutoring for essay structures so that you can write more efficiently during essay exams. Their help is best utilized if you come in early and often. Waiting until the day of your exam to come in for help is not the way to go.
6. Get a good night’s sleep and eat a healthy breakfast. Don’t try to cram half a semester’s worth of material into one night of studying. Instead, follow these steps and, on the night before your exam, rest easy knowing you are well prepared. When you wake up in the morning, eat a healthy breakfast. Your brain needs nutrients to work efficiently and help you get the grade you’ve worked for.

***Important: Remember to bring pens/pencils, paper, and scantron/bluebook (if necessary) to the exam.**