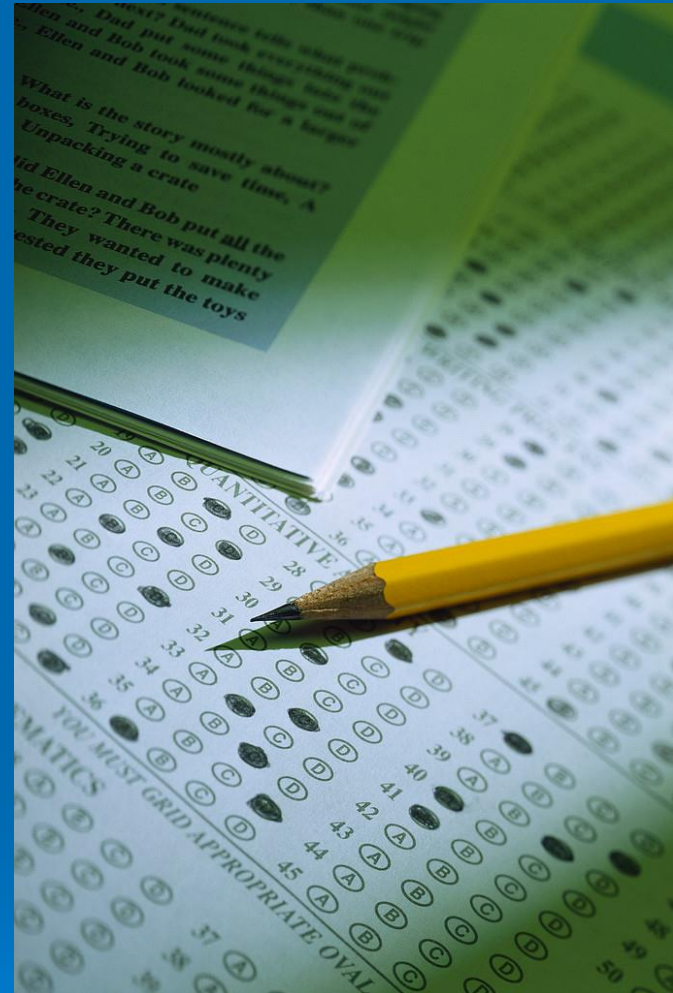


# Welcome to ACT Prep Class



# GOALS!

**GET YOU INTO THE BEST COLLEGE FOR  
YOU!!!**

**A BETTER ACT SCORE OPENS MORE  
DOORS FOR YOU!!!**

**SAVE YOU MONEY!!! SCHOLARSHIPS AND  
AIDE!!!**

# GOALS!



# HOW DO I GET INTO A COLLEGE?

Colleges look at the following:

- G.P.A. = 45%
  - Rigorous Classes
- ACT/SAT exam = 45%
  - See what they want. ACT or SAT, SAT Parts, Writing test
- Other = 10%
  - Becoming more and more important
  - Make out a resume of anything you have done

# HOW DO I GET INTO A COLLEGE?

**START LOOKING FOR COLLEGES NOW!**

✓ **WEB SITES**

<http://www.collegescolleges.com>

✓ **VISIT**

✓ **CALL- MAKE CONTACTS**

✓ **FIND ALUMI**





# The ACT

- The test measures academic achievement
- It does NOT measure your intelligence or ability
- Is a timed test
- You may take the ACT as many times as you want
- This means, you can increase your score by preparing for this test
- THE MORE YOU UNDERSTAND ABOUT THE TEST, THE BETTER YOU WILL DO.

# WHAT I AM NOT GOING TO DO


- I am not going to teach you math, reading, English, or science.
- Not going to make you practice the ACT

# WHAT I AM GOING TO DO

- Give you tips for the test
- Help you understand the test
- Give you practice test to take and help you understand how to take them
- Give you ways to prepare for this test



# What is the ACT?

- A multiple choice standardized exam that is supposed to measure your knowledge of some of the subjects taught in high school.
  - The test takes 3.5 hours with one break
  - The test is divided into 4 different tests (called sections) always given in the same order
- 
- Three sets of concentric circles, resembling ripples in water, are located in the bottom right corner of the slide. They are light blue and have a subtle gradient.

# The Four Sections

- English Test ( 45 minutes-75 questions)
- Math Test (60 minutes-60 questions)
- Reading Test (35 minutes-40 questions)
- Science and Reasoning Test (35 minutes-40 questions)
- Optional Writing Test (30 minutes)

# What is the ACT?

- Each question has two correct answer- one is more correct than the other
- Scored out of 36 points
- You do not get count off for guessing an answer- SAT you do
- It is long and hard
- **YOU DO NOT NEED TO GET EVERY ANSWER RIGHT!!!!**

# Mapping ACT<sup>®</sup> English

**Editing five short passages**  
**75 questions - 45 minutes – 9 minutes Per passage**

**Usage - Mechanics Skills**  
40Q 53%

**Rhetoric Skills**  
35Q 47%

**Punctuation**  
10Q  
13%

**Grammar  
and Use**  
12Q  
16%

**Sentence  
Structure**  
18Q  
24%

**Strategy**  
12Q  
16%

**Organization**  
11Q  
15%

**Style**  
12Q  
16%

Comma  
Semicolon  
End-stop  
Dashes  
Hyphens  
quotes

Tense  
Subject-verb agreement  
Pronoun use  
Adverb vs. adjective  
Double negative  
Idioms  
Possessives  
comparisons

Run-on  
Comma splice  
Fragment  
Coord conjunction  
Parallelism  
Misplaced modifiers  
Clauses  
Subordination  
Split construction  
Unintended meaning

Appropriate support  
Main idea  
Audience  
Effective:  
Opening sentence  
Concluding sentence

Paragraph development  
Sentence-level structure  
Paragraph-level structure

Conciseness  
Ambiguity  
Low-level usage  
Shifting point of view

# Mapping ACT<sup>®</sup> Mathematics

60 questions - 60 minutes

**Direct use of math facts  
or formulas**  
32Q 53%

**Word Problems**  
16Q 27%

**Inference or decision making**  
12Q 20%

**Pre-Algebra**  
14Q  
23%

**Elementary  
Algebra**  
10Q  
17%

**Intermediate  
Algebra**  
9Q  
15%

**Geometry**  
14Q  
23%

**Coordinate  
Geometry**  
9Q  
15%

**Trigonometry**  
4Q  
7%

# Mapping ACT® Reading

4 Passages – 40 Questions – 35 Minutes

Read 750 words  
**Prose/Fiction**

08:45

10Q 25%

Read 750 words  
**Humanities**

08:45

10Q 25%

Read 750 words  
**Social Science**

08:45

10Q 25%

Read 750 words  
**Natural Science**

08:45

10Q 25%

**Explicit Questions**

14Q 35%

**Implicit Questions**

26Q 65%

**Specific  
Detail**

**Sequence  
Cause/Effect  
Comparison**

**Author's Voice  
Main Idea**

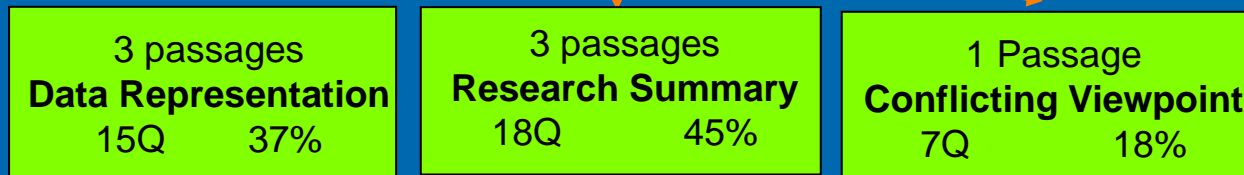
**Generalization  
Conclusion**

**Words in  
Context**



# Mapping ACT Science Reasoning

7 passages - 40 questions - 35minutes



**Understand**  
7Q 17.5%

3

3

1

Identify data points  
Identify units/labels  
Identify trends  
Identify variables  
Identify controls

**Analyze**  
20Q 50%

9

6

5

Hypothesize  
Conclude  
Compare  
evaluate

**Generalize**  
13Q 32.5%

3

9

1

Extrapolate  
Interpolate  
Predict  
generalize

# MOTIVATION!

Standards for College  
Readiness:

What does it all mean?

A PARADIGM SHIFT:

50% = 18

60% = 22

66% = 24

71% = 26

80% = 29

91% = 33

One Little Point at a  
Time!

Note: The ACT scales 1 - 36

Scale	English	Math	Reading	Science	Scale
31	70	53	34	37	31
30	68 - 69	51 - 52	33	--	30
29	67	49 - 50	31 - 32	36	29
28	65 - 66	47 - 48	30	35	28
27	64	45 - 46	29	34	27
26	62 - 63	43 - 44	27 - 28	33	26
25	60 - 61	41 - 42	26	31 - 32	25
24	58 - 59	39 - 40	25	30	24
23	55 - 57	37 - 38	24	28 - 29	23
22	53 - 54	35 - 36	23	26 - 27	22
21	50 - 52	33 - 34	21 - 22	25	21
20	46 - 49	31 - 32	20	23 - 24	20
19	43 - 45	29 - 30	19	21 - 22	19
18	41 - 42	26 - 28	18	19 - 20	18
17	39 - 40	23 - 25	17	17 - 18	17
16	36 - 38	19 - 22	16	16	16
15	33 - 35	16 - 18	15	15	15
14	31 - 32	13 - 15	13 - 14	13 - 14	14
13	28 - 30	10 - 12	12	12	13
12	26 - 27	08 - 09	10 - 11	10 - 11	12
11	24 - 25	06 - 07	08 - 09	09	11
10	21 - 23	05	07	07 - 08	10

# Triage

- Hospital term—treat those patients with the most serious injury/illness first and the least sick/inured last.
- A term that can be applied to ACT—  
HOW?

# ACT Triage Strategy

- Each question on the ACT is worth one point.
- The most difficult question is worth the same point value as the easiest question
- Triage the ACT -find the easy questions to answer first and save the difficult questions for last
- This strategy allows your to make the best use of the allotted time

# Now, Later, and NEVER

- Answer all questions that you are sure about first
- Answer those you are less sure about second
- Finally, save those that you have no idea about last-and GUESS!!!



# Now, Later, and NEVER

- The object is to answer every question you can answer.
- By answering every question of which you're sure, you will never have to hear the words "pencils down" and know there are several more questions that you could have done.
- Obviously some of the questions will be easier than others, start with those.
- For questions that you have no idea how to answer, or even attempt to answer, guess.



# **You must fill in an answer for every single question on the ACT**

- There are 215 questions on the ACT.
- If you went into the test room, fill out your name, went to sleep for most of the time, then woke up and picked answer choice (B) or (G) 215 times, your composite score would be 12!

# Tip #1

Do question triage:  
Easy, Medium, Hard

The background of the slide is a solid blue color. In the bottom right corner, there are several concentric white circles of varying sizes, resembling ripples on water. These circles are arranged in a way that suggests a point of impact, with the largest ripple being the most prominent.

# Tip # 2

- Cross out crazy answers!
- What is the average of 100 and 200?
- A. 500
- B. 150
- C. one billion

# Tip #3

- Zero is neither positive or negative, but it is an even number.
- Zero is NOT a prime number



# Tip #4

- Put the material into a form you can understand.
- Reword the questions to something you can understand. What is the question really asking you?



# Tip #5

## ➤ Ignore irrelevant issues

Passages often contain information that is not important to the overall meaning. In this situation, make sure you OMIT the underlined portion.





# Tip #6

- Look for hidden answers.

For example, you might work out a problem and get .5 as the answer. But .5 is not an answer choice, but one choice reads “ $1/2$ ”.

# Tip #7

- Write all over your test booklet! You paid for it. But, do not write on the answer grid, any mis-marked items could impact your score.



# Tip #8

- Do not read the directions. It is a waste of time.



# HOW CAN I GET A BETTER SCORE?

## ➤ #1 PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE

- The more you see the test the better you will do.
- Get a ACT test book or use the practice test online, given by the school, or at <http://www.act.org>

# HOW CAN I GET A BETTER SCORE?

## ➤ #2 Practice Smart

- Never practice with a whole test
- Use sections of the test- One reading passage or 15 math questions
- Practice should not be more than 20-25 minutes a day but should be 3-5 times a week

YOU DON'T LEARN TO RUN A MARATHON  
BY RUNNING A MARATHON!!!

# HOW CAN I GET A BETTER SCORE?

## ➤ #2 Practice Smart

TEST	English	Math	Reading	Science
# Passages	1	-	2	3
# Questions	15	15	20	15
Time	9 minutes	15 minutes	17 minutes 30 seconds	15 minutes



# HOW CAN I GET A BETTER SCORE?

## ➤ #3 Time yourself

- You need to always be timed
- Get an egg timer

## ➤ #4 In the practice tests, read the explanation for questions you missed and the ones you got right

## ➤ #5 Learn Key Terms

# HOW CAN I GET A BETTER SCORE?

## ACT Vocabulary — Words Required for English and Reading Tests\* (Bare Minimum)

abstract	defiantly	generalize	lyricism	reluctantly	steerage
absurdity	definitive	generate	mainstream	remnant	stereotypical
acknowledge	delete	genre	mandate (v)	remote	stifle
acute	deletion	glib	matter of course	replenish	subjective
aesthetic	denote	humanitarian	means (n)	resemblance	succession
affluence	derive	hypothesis	mediocre	resistant	succumb
agenda	detached	idealistic	melancholy	resolution	superficial
allegedly	deterrence	ideological	mere	resonate	superimpose
ambiguity	detract	idiomatic	meticulous	resources	sustenance
ample	dialect	illogical	minuscule	respectively	syndicated
analogy	dilemma	illustrative	mischievous	revel	syringe
anomaly	diligent	imminent	misconception	reverent	taut
apathy	discern	implication	momentous	revisionist	taxed with
arbitrary	disdainful	imply	mutual	rift	tenet
articulate (v)	dispel	impose	narrative	rudimentary	terra firma
assert	dissonance	inaccurate	nevertheless	sacrilege	terrestrial
assertion	distract	inadvertently	nonetheless	sanctuary	theorize
authoritative	diverse	incentive	nostalgia	sapling	thereafter
auxiliary	drawback	inclination	noteworthy	satellite	thus
breadth	dry (humor)	inconsistency	notion	saturation	timber
chaos	eclectic	inconstant	obscure (v)	scholarly	tirade
chronic	editorial (adj)	indication	obtuse	scrunity	toxin
chronological	eloquent	indifference	omission	scrutinize	trajectory
cite	eminent	inevitable	omit	seascape	transcend
coherence	emphatically	inexplicably	on behalf of	seemingly	transition
coherent	enumerate	infer	one-dimensional	selectively	translucent
collaborating	escapist	inference	onus	seminal	treason
commendable	establishment	influential	outset	sensory	typesetting
compellingly	evaluative	ingenious	paradox	sentiment	tyranny
concede	evoke	ingenuous	parenthetical	serenity	tyrant
concise	explanatory	inherent	perceptual	shrill	uncanny
concrete (adj)	explicit	initial (adj)	phenomenal	shrub	unparalleled
condescension	extent	inquiry	philosophy	shun	unprecedented
confer	façade	insight	plagiarism	simultaneous	unsolicited
conformity	facet	insignificant	populace	singular	urgency
connote	factual	insinuate	populous	site	urn
consequence	faculty	insistently	portray	sit-in	vaccine
consequently	feign	insufficient	preceding	sizable	vindicate
consistent	fictitious	intent	precisely	skepticism	visionary
contemporary (n)	figuratively	intently	preconceived	slogan	vivid
context	finding (n)	interpretation	previous	social order	voluptuous
controversial	foresight	intolerant	progressive	solace	vulnerable
conversely	formality	intricacies	quasi-	sovereign	wherefore
convey	format	intricate	quintessential	specific	whimsy
correlate (v,n)	frenzied	intrigue (v)	randomly	speculate	withdrawn
cosmopolitan (adj)	frivolous	irreconcilable	rational	spin-off	worldview
counter (v)	furthermore	irrelevant	redundancy	stable	
criterion	generalities	irrevocable	redundant	stationary	
cryptic	generalization	likewise	reinforce	stationery	
daunting		longstanding	relevant	status	

# HOW CAN I GET A BETTER SCORE?

## Math Vocabulary

---

area of a circle

chord

circumference

collinear

complex number

congruent

consecutive

diagonal

directly proportional

endpoints

function  $y = R(x)$

hypotenuse

integer

intersect

irrational number

least common denominator

logarithm

matrix

mean

median

obtuse

perimeter

perpendicular

pi

polygon

prime number

quadrant

quadratic equation

quadrilateral

quotient

radian

radii

radius

rational number

real number

slope

standard coordinate plane

transversal

trapezoid

vertex

x-intercept

y-intercept

# HOW CAN I GET A BETTER SCORE?

- #6 Keep Track of your Scores
  - Score Sheet on Frig or Mirror
- #7 Know what you need for a score
- #8 Get the questions you should, right.  
Steal questions. Guess smart

# HOW CAN I GET A BETTER SCORE?

- #9 Have a short term memory
- #10 Celebrate the good scores. Treat yourself.



# Next ACT Prep

- We will talk about the Reading Test and some tips for scoring better on it.
- ALL POWERPOINTS, PRACTICE TESTS, AND WEBSITES WILL BE POSTED ON THE SCHOOL WEBPAGE UNDER ACT PREP.