Ten Educated Guessing Strategies

**Disclaimer:** Learning the material and studying is *always* the best way to improve the likelihood of doing well on an exam. **These guessing strategies should only be used as a last resort for answering questions.** The University Learning Center does not guarantee that these strategies will improve your exam performance, nor do we accept responsibility for any use of these strategies during exams. Please remember: *studying works best!*

1.) **Guess false if there is a 100 percent modifier** (e.g., *Always* begin by studying your favorite subject first. Attendance in college is required in *every* class.)

2.) **Guess true if there is an in-between modifier** (e.g., Reviewing notes from a previous paragraph can *sometimes* be used to help understand a difficult paragraph. In a sole proprietorship, the person who owns the business is *usually* the one who operates it.)

3.) **Guess false if there is a relationship clue** (e.g., Lack of motivation is the *reason* unsuccessful students avoid using time management. Cramming is not recommended *because* it used only eight of the Twelve Principles of Memory.)

4.) **Guess false if the statement is ridiculous, foolish, insulting, or has unfamiliar terms.**

5.) **Guess true, the wild-shot guess, if there are no other clues in a true-false question** (e.g., if there are no modifiers to use, and there is no relationship shown). Teachers usually prefer to write more true statements than false statements.

6.) **If there are numbers as options, eliminate the highest and the lowest:** guess one of the options that remain. For example, an average rate of thinking speeds is 800 words/min, 600 words/min, 400 words/min, 200 words/min. Eliminate the lowest (200) and the highest (800). Thus choose between 600 and 400 words/min choices.

7.) **If there are multiple-choice options that are almost identical (look alike), choose one of those two options.**

8.) **If one multiple-choice option is longer in length or more inclusive in content, choose it.**

9.) **If the last option is “all of the above” and this option is not used throughout the test, choose it.**

10.) **Guess c, the wild-shot guess, if there are no other clues in a multiple-choice question.**