**General Tips:**

* Bring snacks for fuel
* Don’t eat a big breakfast if you are not used to doing so. It may upset your stomach or put you to sleep
* Get plenty of sleep the night before
* Do not try to cram the night before
* Get a practice test booklet & take practice tests. Be sure to time yourself- try to set a timer for 5 minutes less that the test time to make you go faster.
* If you are not sure of an answer, answer two questions and then come back. This allows your brain a chance to process the answers while you’re working on other stuff.
* Take as many practice tests as possible.
* Take at least one practice test before so you know what types of questions to expect.
* Use the process of elimination if you don’t know the answer. If you don’t have a clue, guess.
* Don’t over analyze the questions because the answers will be in the passage or figure given
* Take your time and don’t rush, but be mindful of how you are pacing yourself.
* I was told not to worry about answering the questions correctly rather than answering all the questions- not good advice….
* Buy the book *Up Your ACT Score.*  This book explains how the questions work and lists good strategies- it’s written by student who took the ACT.
* Don’t limit yourself mentally- go in thinking you can do well
* Use the ACT website practice tests for each section
* Use the practice tests to measure your speed and accuracy-this helps you decide what you need to work on to improve.
* Take one section of a practice test Monday- Thursday. Grade and review what you got wrong on Fridays. Take a full test on Saturday, review and grade on Sunday. Get practice test from test-guide.com
* At the five-minute warning, go ahead and guess to fill in the rest of the questions. Then go back and work until time is up.
* Take the ACT in June or July- that way don’t have to worry about what you need to do for school. This is less stressful.
* Take a few practice tests using different strategies to see which ones work best for you.
* Try circling the answers in the book on each page, then bubble them in on the answer sheet. This saves time- just be sure you are bubbling in the on the right number on the answer sheet.
* Set a goal and visualize yourself working toward it as you take the test.

**English Tips:**

* Take a few practice tests to build your confidence.
* Think about the answer in your head before looking at the answer choices.
* Typically, the shortest answer id best but also make sure you are familiar with colons, semicolons and dashes.
* Most questions are easy- Subject verb agreement, commas, etc. DON’T OVER THINK…
* Review subject-verb agreement, commas, semicolons, colons and run-ons.
* Comma rules are BIG
* Read the question, and the location and the passage a few times to understand it clearly.
* Know grammar rules- if you are stuck, say the sentence aloud in your head.
* Learn: They’re, there, and their, who and whom, and prepositional phrases.

**Math Tips:**

* Organized easiest to harder.
* Try to answer the first 30 math questions at 8 minute per 10 questions, that way you’ll have over half of the time left for the last 30 questions which are substantially harder.
* Another tactic- questions 1-20- answer in 15 minutes, 20-40 answer in 20 minutes, the last 40-60- 25 minutes. Don’t sweat the last 5.
* Familiarize yourself with formulas and the types of questions on the tests. The format stays the same from test to test with different numbers.
* Underline what you are solving for.
* There’s nothing wrong with the “Plug & Chug” method if you are stuck- using the multiple choice answers plug into problem to find the correct answer or eliminate wrong answers.
* With an exception of a few, math problems only require basic knowledge from Pre-Algebra, Algebra 1, and Geometry. They seem harder because the wording is tricky.
* If you get stuck, SKIP IT or circle the number, guess and come back later.
* Great math website: <http://sbstjohn.com/QODWebSite/act_qod.htm>
* Take the practice tests repeatedly. If you don’t know an answer, skip it and come back. There will be some things you will not know- focus on the ones you do know.
* If you don’ know or understand a problem, guess and move on. You probably won’t know how to do it in 5 minutes and you would have wasted valuable time trying to figure it out.

**Reading Tips:**

* Take as many practice tests as possible; focusing on the types of problems that you have trouble with ( interpretation, vocab, ideas)
* Figure out how you process information and stick to it.
* Fast readers- read the passage- level 1 reading then go back with deeper questions.
* Read an assortment of other things- this helps you be able to comprehend things that aren’t as interesting to you like the test passages and questions.
* Read the first and last sentence to get a summary of the paragraphs.
* Read the Passage first.
* Skim passage first for important information.
* Skim the first two stories to leave enough time for the last two stories, which are the more scientific reads.
* Read the first couple of questions so you know what to be looking for in the passage.
* Make sure you to focus on what you are reading. Pretend you are interested in what you are reading so that you remember it.
* Answer all the questions you can without looking at the passages to save time.
* Don’t spend too much time on one question.
* Pick the answer that makes the most sense to you.
* Write a one word or short summary of each paragraph out to the side for quick referral when answering questions.
* Read only the first and last paragraphs. Every paragraph in between read only the first and last sentence. That way you know what is going on and can refer back if needed.
* For timings sake, try to limit time for each passage to 8.5 minutes, reading passages in no more than 2 minutes.

**Science Tips:**

* You do not have to go in order as long as you answer what you are most comfortable with, first.
* Don’t let the big words intimidate you; you do not have to know what they mean to answer the questions.
* Skim the multiple choice questions first. Background information in the paragraphs is not necessary.
* Write all over the test- identify X and Y axis, don’t overthink
* Read the information and refer to the graph. Even if you don’t understand the words, all you have to be able to do is read and understand the graphs.
* Save the Comparing Scientist part until last.

**Writing Tips:**

* Jot down what you think of when you read the prompt. This will help you form your essay around something.
* Use evidence to back up your argument. You do not have to use factual evidence, just be sure it’s believable and adds to your argument.
* Focus on convincing the reader of your argument and show them you understand the three perspectives.
* Write an outline- it’s important to carry your thesis through the whole essay.
* Make sure you keep the writing organized & write your thesis beforehand & plan your essay. I like to make a T-chart for the paragraphs.
* Try two examples- one personal and one historical/literature.
* Either write using specific examples from your own life or from stories/history, you know about. Don’t spend too much time thinking before you write, but do make sure you understand the prompt.