

# **TIPS FOR ESSAY EXAMS!**

## **PREPARING FOR EXAMS:**

- Study concepts, major themes, with details to support main ideas
- If professor gives possible topics for questions, go through the following process for each possible question: 1) write a thesis or argument, 2) write supporting statements, 3) write a concluding statement (re-word #1)
- Review the writing process: Brainstorm-Organize-Outline-Add-Support-Write-Revise-Edit
- Look at old papers: What problems did you have? See your professor or the Writing Lab for help. Don't make the same mistakes twice!

## **TAKING ESSAY EXAMS:**

- Get there early, have all supplies, find a comfortable spot
- Read all Directions!!!!
- Assign times to each question, leaving time to edit at the end
- Make a brief outline for each question while ideas are fresh in your mind. FOLLOW THIS OUTLINE!!!!
- Watch grammar, spelling, format—you won't have time to correct all of these things at the end
- At end, re-read question and your essay—did you do what the question says? Do your points support your thesis? Do you have an introduction and a conclusion?

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