



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK...

Fall is in the air and this is my favorite time of the year! I know you want to know why; well, it is because you get to eat a tasty caramel apple, watch football games, and relax with a good book.

Oh! You thought I had no educational suggestions for the October edition of the SSS Newsletter? Well, think again. Though I am not a fan of taking tests, and sometimes they can be scary; testing is a necessary tool that shows how well you understand the material from your classes. How much do you know about preparing to do well on a test or exam? Keep reading for a Success Secret: Test-Taking Skills.

The first secret to successful test taking is to be prepared. Successful students start preparing for exams on the first day of class. You can do this by reading the syllabus. The syllabus is used to inform students of important dates, exams, assignments, and grades. Remember to

use your planner or calendar to stay organized and on top of things.

Next, listed below are some specific test-taking strategies that will surely give you the boost you need to do well on your next exam.

TRUE/FALSE Exam Tools

- ◆ Determine the number of questions and budget your time.
- ◆ Read each question carefully. Remember that if any part of a statement is false, the entire statement is false.
- ◆ Look for qualifiers. Words such as *never*, *all*, *none*, and *always* are generally false. Word phrases such as *on the other hand*, *sometimes*, *generally*, *often*, *frequently*, and *almost* indicate a statement is true.
- ◆ Answer the questions you know first.
- ◆ When questioning yourself, do not change answers.



- ◆ Reason statements tend to be false. When something is given as the "reason" or "cause" or "because of" something else, the statement tends to be false.
- ◆ Answer all questions.

MULTIPLE CHOICE Exam Tools

- ◆ Attempt to answer the questions without looking at the options.
- ◆ Eliminate the distracters; those answers that you know are obviously wrong. Cross those out.
- ◆ Analyze the options as true/false questions.
- ◆ Answer questions you know first.
- ◆ Answer all questions.
- ◆ Allow time at the end to check answers for carelessness.

SHORT-ANSWER/FILL-IN-THE-BLANK Exam Questions

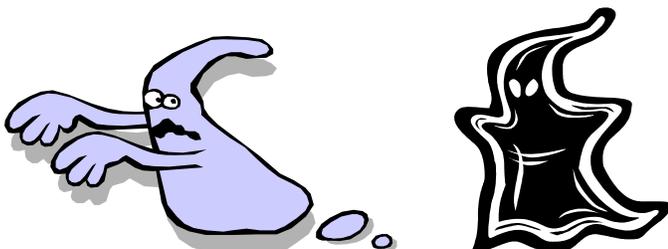
- ◆ It is best to over study.
- ◆ Answer the questions you know first.

Special points of interest:

- 10/16 TRIP
- 10/21 WORKSHOP:
- 10/23 WORKSHOP
- 10/23 TRIP
- 10/28 WORKSHOP
- 10/30 WORKSHOP
- 10/30 TRIP
- 11/4 WORKSHOP

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THE 411

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- ◆ When you prepare for the exam, focus on facts and key words.
- ◆ Look over materials as though you were going to write the exam.
- ◆ Try to predict questions that would be found on this type of exam.

MATCHING Exam Tools

- ◆ Determine the pattern of the matching questions.
- ◆ Take a minute before you begin to determine exactly what is being matched.
- ◆ Choose the longest column to read first.
- ◆ Answer the questions you know first.
- ◆ With each answer cross out items used from both columns.

ESSAY Exam Tools

Step-by-step Approach

- ◆ Read the questions carefully.
- ◆ Brainstorm ideas or create a mind web.
- ◆ Categorize your topic, numbering each category.
- ◆ Rank and sort your ideas into your outline.
- ◆ Take a few minutes to rethink the topic.
- ◆ Begin writing the body of the paper.
- ◆ Proofread your answers before submitting the test.

Now you are ready for any type of exam. I wish you the best of luck. Remember, it is never too early to plan. Discover what strategies work best for you and use them. SSS is always here for support with friendly and knowledgeable tutors and staff. **GOOD LUCK!!**

Information taken from College Success Guide. Authors: Karine Blackett and Patricia Weiss.

SSS Assists at Jefferson City Samaritan Center

On Thursday, September 18th, SSS took a group of students to the Samaritan Center to serve as volunteers in distributing food items and clothes to the needy.

Program Assistant Stan Onyekwere arranged with the Samaritan Center to have the students from SSS visit every other week. Students felt involved and very pleased to be in a position where they could help. "It was fun to help people in need," said Danyl Mullins. They really enjoyed the activity and are looking forward to the next visit.

This is part of a continued commitment from SSS to col-



Photo <http://www.midmosamaritan.org/index.htm>

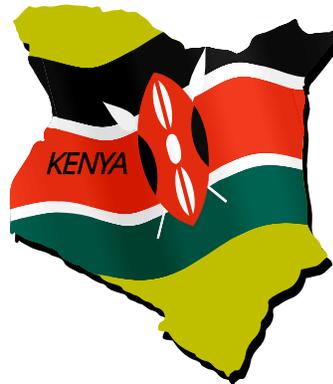
laborate with the community. SSS is a Federally funded program.



Tutor Spotlight: Valentine Dama

Valentine Dama started work at Student Support Services as a math tutor on September 24, joining the eight tutors we currently have.

Valentine is majoring in Broadcast journalism with an emphasis in public relations, and plans to graduate from Lincoln in the spring of 2010. When asked why she decided to tutor math, she stated that she didn't understand math in high school at all, and when she came to the United States and began studying it, she felt like "God had given me a second chance at math," and wants to "give this knowledge to others" and "inspire someone else to be



good at math." She wants all her students to understand that "they can do it."

Valentine was born in the town of Nanyuki in central Kenya in north-eastern Africa. She later moved to

Nairobi, the capital, and went to high school there. Her family, however, is from Malindi on the coast of the country.

Keeping a positive attitude is her way of life. She wants all her students to know that they won't meet any challenges they can't overcome. "God can never give you so much that you can't handle." You'll always be able to deal with your difficulties, but "positivity is the key. If you spread your positive energy, everyone responds to it beautifully, and it ends up working out."

We welcome Valentine to SSS and we're happy to have her with us.



THIS MISTAKEN BELIEF THAT THE TUTOR GETS TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE STUDENT'S SUCCESS HAS LED TO A LOT OF FAILURE.

Tutoring Helps If You Let It

One day a few semesters past, I sat at my desk working on a project, and I watched a young woman come through the doors, walk to one of our tutors and give her a big hug.

"Thank you, thank you," she said, "for my A. Without you, I would not have passed biology. You did it!"

I see and hear stories like this one a lot in my job, and it warms my heart every time I see a success story. But still, the words of the student, "You did it," bothered me a little bit.

While the tutor put work into the situation — maybe even hard work — the student is the one who passed the test.

Let me tell you what I mean. There's a line from one of my favorite movies, *The Matrix*, which says words to the effect of: "I can only show you the door. You have to walk through it yourself."

That's what a tutor does, she shows you the door. She doesn't give you any answers to your math problems (unless you've already solved it). She doesn't write the paper for you. She doesn't do your homework.

A tutor explains concepts and makes sure you understand them. She may make you do some problems to prove to her (and to yourself) that you understand the

ideas. She may give you some tips on how to remember what you read or improve your style of note-taking. It all goes towards the same goal.

But you do the work.

Any credit received for finished homework is yours. Any grade gotten for an aced test is yours. And the grade at the end of class? Yours. You walk through the door. Your tutor just points the way.

This mistaken belief that the tutor gets to take responsibility for the student's success has led to a lot of failure. Some feel that going to a tutor is admitting defeat or giving up. Others feel that when they graduate, they somehow have taken charity and the credit for that degree is not 100% their own.

This belief is flat-out wrong.

And the mistake comes from a misunderstood idea of what a tutor does. Tutors do not lead. Tutors do not do homework. Tutors do not spoon-feed answers. This is not tutoring.

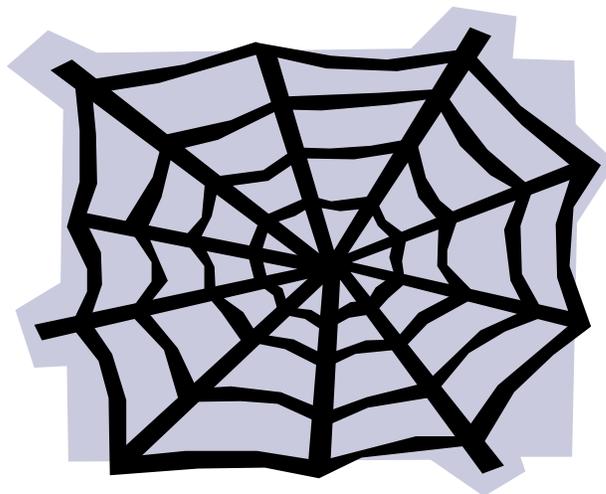
The job of a tutor is to make the student independent. What I mean by this is that the tutor should never, ever give answers to their students—and students should not expect it. What tutors do is to help their students understand rules and procedures until the students can apply the correct principle from one situa-



tion to another. When a student can know when and when not to apply the quadratic formula, and which numbers to plug in, then the tutor has done her job. When the student knows whether psychological experiment applies to a new situation or not, then the tutor has done her job.

Please, please, do not avoid going to a tutor if you are failing a class. All successes will be yours. The tutor will only show you the pathway towards success and away from failure.

You can do this! And we're here to help!



Halloween Cookies

Ingredients

- 2-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon grated orange rind
- 1 tablespoon orange juice
- Chocolate Cookie Variation (recipe follows)
- Royal Icing (recipe follows)
- Paste food colors OR: soft gel paste food colors



Directions

1. Sift together flour, baking powder and salt onto waxed paper.
2. Beat butter and sugar in bowl until smooth. Beat in egg, orange rind and juice. Add flour mixture, a third at a time, stirring well after each addition.
3. Shape dough into ball; flatten slightly. Wrap in plastic wrap. Refrigerate for several hours or overnight.
4. To bake, heat oven to 350°F. Lightly grease baking sheets. Roll out half of dough on floured surface to generous 1/8-inch thickness. Cut into shapes, using Halloween cookie cutters, 1-1/2- to 5-3/4-inch. Place cookies 1/2 inch apart on prepared baking sheets.
5. Bake in 350°F oven for 9 minutes or until light golden around edges; cookies should not brown. Transfer cookies to rack to cool. Repeat with second half of dough and scraps.

Chocolate Variation

Add 2 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder to flour before sifting in Step 1. Add 1/3 cup granulated sugar, for total of 1 cup.

Royal Icing

Decorate cookies: Using small fine-tipped paintbrush, coat cookies with thinned icing. Let stand until dry.
Decorate cookies with thicker icing, piping with pastry bag fitted with writing tip.

Beat 3 tablespoons meringue powder or powdered egg whites, 4 cups (1-pound box) confectioners' sugar, sifted, and 6 tablespoons water in bowl until peaks form, 10 minutes (makes 3 cups). Divide icing in half. To make base coat for glaze: Thin half with water, a drop at a time, until consistency of sour cream. Use thicker second half for piping. Tint icing with food coloring.

<http://www.parents.com/recipe/cookies/halloween-cookies/>



Student Support Services

YOU CAN DO THIS!

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES



BIRTHDAYS

Brannan, Gayle	1
Moore, Kiara	1
Jackson, Jessica	3
Lofton, Marjerius	7
Hinton, Kellicia	8
Ulmer, Laroysa	8
Gregory, Talishia	11
Reynolds, Claessa	11
Calhoun, Corrinda	13
Williams, Shekia	13
Hudson, Sherita	17
Barringer, Jeremiah	20
Wattree, Michelle	20
Grigsby, Mary	22

OUR TUTORS

<i>Mwalimu Clark</i>	<i>history, political science</i>
<i>Kristen Finley</i>	<i>biology, chemistry</i>
<i>Paulina Hernández</i>	<i>Spanish, mathematics</i>
<i>Dawn Jenkins</i>	<i>English, speech, writing/papers</i>
<i>Jonathan Knipp</i>	<i>philosophy, ethics</i>
<i>Marcella Patlán</i>	<i>biology, Earth science</i>
<i>Seleana Smith</i>	<i>psychology</i>

We're on the Web!

<http://www.lincolnu.edu/pages/454.asp>

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES CANNED FOOD DRIVE

Bring your canned foods and dry goods to the SSS offices between November 3rd and November 10th for donation to the Salvation Army and the Samaritan Center

CALENDAR

- October 9 @ 11:00 a.m. - WORKSHOP: Test Anxiety
- October 14 @ 11:00 a.m. - WORKSHOP: Learning Styles
- October 16 @ 11:00 a.m. - WORKSHOP: Problems with FAFSA
- October 16 @ 4:00 p.m. - TRIP: Assisting at Samaritan Center
- October 21 @ 11:00 a.m. - WORKSHOP: Eeeazzzyyy Registration
- October 23 @ 8:00 p.m. - WORKSHOP: I'm Still Lost!
- October 23 @ 8:00 p.m. - TRIP: Hayride!
- October 28 @ 11:00 a.m. - WORKSHOP: I'm Still Lost!
- October 30 @ 11:00 a.m. - WORKSHOP: Open Forum
- October 30 @ 3:00 p.m. - TRIP: Heisinger Bluffs Nursing Home
- November 4 @ 11:00 a.m. - WORKSHOP: Organization and Management
- November 6 @ 3:00 p.m. - WORKSHOP: Good Study Habits
- November 11 @ 11:00 a.m. - WORKSHOP: Open Forum

