

# Essay Tests

## *Quick Tips for Preparing and Taking Essay-Based Exams*

# Preparing

1. When you are studying, try writing an essay question for the class. Think about what the professor might ask.
2. Talk to a friend about the material. See if you can put information together smoothly. This is good practice.
3. Try writing some topic sentences you might use in an essay.

# During the exam

1. Breathe. Take 5 minutes to plan.
2. Reread the question.
3. Circle words that tell you what kind of thinking you are supposed to do.
4. Make a list of specific details you will include.
5. Leave a blank space at the beginning, so you can write your introduction last. That way you can make sure it matches up with the rest of the essay.

# As you write...

...refer back to your plan to make sure you are doing what the professor asks you to do.

...take a moment at the end to reread and proofread. It is OK to cross out or neatly add things, and better to do that than to leave words misspelled and sentences tangled.

# Student Success Centers

**For more information on being a successful college student contact the Student Success Center.**

**119 Payson Smith Hall, Portland  
780-4040**

**119 Bailey Hall, Gorham  
780-5652**

**119 Lewiston-Auburn College, Lewiston  
753-6500**

**or e-mail: [studentsuccess@usm.maine.edu](mailto:studentsuccess@usm.maine.edu)**

**Student Success Advisors are available to help you.**