5 Tips for Timed Essays

1. **Collect your thoughts**

   Deep breath – take a second to gather your thoughts and allow the panic to disperse. Get a grip!

2. **Answer the right question**

   Before you start writing, read through the prompt until you truly understand what it is asking. Many people are so hasty to write that they finished their essay only to realize it doesn’t correctly address the prompt. Don’t make this mistake. Read and reread the prompt.

3. **Plan your time wisely**

   Before you begin writing, make a mental plan of how this is going to go. If it helps, make an outline on your paper that looks like the following.

   \[
   \text{Thesis: .....} \\
   \text{Paragraph A topic: .....} \\
   \text{Paragraph B topic: .....} \\
   \text{Paragraph C topic: .....}
   \]

4. **Revise your thesis statement before you turn in your paper**

   When you have finished your body paragraphs or conclusion (whichever you feel would be best) reread your thesis to make sure it still applies. If your writing took a turn while writing and has strayed from your original intended thesis yet still fits the prompt, adjust the thesis as necessary.

5. **Leave time to revise**

   Make sure you leave a couple of minutes to quickly scan over your essay to ensure it’s organized and clear. Often silly mistakes are made when we’re in a hurry. Leaving a couple of minutes at the end can help eliminate these mistakes before time is up.