

How to Prep: Follow the recipe!

Do you ever look at your kids and wonder where they got all that energy, motivation, and ambition from?

Or perhaps you look at them and wonder the opposite--why won't they get up and do things?

Regardless of whether or not your student needs to be hassled into action, they almost certainly will need direction once they're IN action. And some may need more than others.

Take for example, Rose, a 16-year-old who, bursting with energy, decides she wants to cook dinner and dessert for the family. With a penchant for creativity and disregard for rules and recipes, she decides to "wing it".

Fast forward a couple hours--the family is seated around the table gazing down at their plates as they admire what appears to be an entirely novel take on the classic spaghetti dish. Draped sumptuously across fine china plates, slippery noodles glisten with what appears to be a modern adaptation of traditional tomato paste. From within the bright red glaze that coats the entirety of the plate, the spaghetti au ketchup reaches up towards its admirers, evoking feelings of nostalgia and nausea.

For dessert-- a caramelized, contemporary deconstruction (*read: destruction*) of essence of dark chocolate snackpack. Microwave melted chocolate bar in original aluminum wrapping lends itself to a *mélange* of mysterious textures and unique, charred flavors.

Although one must admire the creativity and resourcefulness that contribute to such disastrous productions, there are many times in life where sticking to the recipe may be wisest. For example, when preparing for the ACT and SATs!

The ACT and SATs are not only indicators of how much knowledge and skill your student has retained from their years of formal education, they also show colleges what your student may be able to offer *them*. A high score on the tests signals colleges that a student is worthy of investment. Using scholarships, colleges then try to lure such students who would contribute to their image and reputation. Given that, by focusing on test scores alone, your student could qualify for up to \$92,274 worth of scholarships, grants, and tuition discounts, test prep really isn't the time to be experimenting.

So how do you get started? Here's a basic recipe for beginners.

1. Take a diagnostic test.
2. Attend consultation.
3. Begin test prep.
4. Take test.

A diagnostic test is essential in maximizing student scores on the ACT and SAT. The diagnostic determines which test your student would score higher on, and highlights areas for improvement. Even if your student thinks they know which test they'd prefer, be aware that one third of students taking the SAT and ACT tests are taking the wrong one, and consequently miss out on substantial financial aid opportunities. Thus, we highly recommend taking a diagnostic. Ultimately, it may save you and your student a lot of time, money, and stress.

Next, at the consultation session, a test prep roadmap is determined based on your student's schedule, learning style, and goals. Whether your student prefers to work alone, with friends, online, or privately with a tutor, we have a plan that works for everyone and every budget.

Throughout the test prep process, regardless of the test prep option you've chosen, we stand by to answer any questions you may have. These may range from how to choose between colleges, how to defeat testing anxiety, or even what questions to ask on a college tour.

When testing day comes, we cheer you on as you march confidently into the testing room and await the good news with ears pressed against the door. Just kidding, we don't follow you to the testing site, but we do stay near our phones in case you want to let us know.

If you still have questions and want to view the entire "recipe", flip through our new book: *Better Test Prep = FREE Money for College*.