Tips for Taking
Timed Essay Exams
• Do you have a timed essay exam assigned in one of your classes?

• Does the program you are applying for at a four-year institution require that you complete a timed writing exam?

• Are you applying for a job that requires a timed writing exam as part of the interview process?

*Then this module is for you!*

**Directions:** Insert the CD ROM titled How to Take A Timed Essay Exam. As you view this CD ROM, answer the questions on the page titled “Notes.” This will allow you to have some notes to take with you from this module regarding how to take timed essay exams. After you have viewed this CD ROM, take one or more of the practice timed exams included in this module. Go over your finished product with a tutor or instructor to assess how you did.
Notes

**Directions:** As you listen to the lecture recorded on the CD ROM, take notes for the following headings. These will give you a record of tips to follow as you move into your essay exam situation.

What are some things you can do prior to the exam in order to prepare?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.
What are some things you can do during the essay exam itself in order to write a solid essay?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.
Practice Exam #1

**Directions:** Reflect on your own experiences as a college student as well as those of your family and friends. Then write an essay in which you answer the following question. This essay should be 3-5 pages, double spaced.

*Using your own experience as well as that of friends and family, argue why it is important to go to college.*
Directions: Reflect on your experiences as a high school student. Then think about your experiences at college. Use these reflections to help you answer the following question.

Compare or contrast your experiences at high school and at college in order to conclude which institution better prepares you for the responsibilities of being an independent adult.
Directions: Read the short article titled *Women: Fragile Flowers?* Then write an essay in which you answer the following question.

Use your own experience as well as the information given in *Women: Fragile Flowers?* to argue whether or not women are biologically superior to men.
Women: Fragile Flowers?
Adapted from a student essay by Stella Tesolero

Whenever people discuss the idea of women in the world of men, a male voice always cries out that women are biologically different from men, even in the animal kingdom. However, though women may be different from men, they are not the weaker sex. In fact, there is some evidence to indicate that women are biologically superior to men.

Many would paint a pretty picture of womankind as a fragile flower easily bent. The argument that women are biologically different from men always hints that women are inferior to men, inferior in terms of stamina, stability, and thinking. Dr. Edgar Berman, a former surgeon and one-time State Department consultant on Latin American health problems states, “Women should be excluded from high executive positions because of their monthly raging hormonal imbalances.” People like Dr. Berman point out that women cry while men keep a stiff upper lip, implying that women have poor responses to life’s problems. There are also statements on record that women usually have lower I.Q.s than men do, and that this accounts for the low percentage of women in professional jobs. All these remarks certainly do seem to point a finger at women as delicate butterflies, needing protection and care and not needing positions of responsibility in the world today.

But the finger is pointing in the wrong direction because men lack all the important biological features. The term “biologically different” used against women tries to be impartial, but it still is an expression of male prejudice. In fact, men are the weaker sex. The female of almost any species is sturdier than the male. Dr. James Hamilton, an endocrinologist, shows that from worms to humans the male is less able to tolerate life’s everyday stresses. “There can be little doubt that the male has a higher mortality rate in almost all forms of animal life studies” he asserts. Even during the first week of life, the death rate for infant males is 32% greater than that of female. Later on in life, the society puts stress on the man to compete, produce, and succeed; this also affects the male survival rate. In addition, male mortality is affected by the male hormone testosterone which increases the metabolic rate in most bodily tissues, wearing them out faster.

In addition, there is no proof that the woman’s monthly “hormonal imbalance” is a sign of inferiority. True, many women do experience some discomfort each month; some are even quite ill for a day or two. However, federal surveys in every job category show that women take of the same amount of time off from their job as men do. Although crying is often cited an other “proof” of women’s difference from men, United States Public Health data show that females have a much lower suicide rate – less than half that of males. And there are no sex differences in regard to I.Q. On all forms of intelligence tests, the female I.Q. is not significantly different from that of the male. Women are biologically superior to men.

However, women have been unable to prove they are not the weaker sex because society has assigned them an inferior position. Few brilliant women have tried to develop their talents simply because there has been a small market for brilliant women in this country. The few who have developed their creative talents find that the world views them as “odd balls.” The stereotype of a brilliant woman is that of a horsefaced, flat-chested females in support shoes, who has hidden her sexual instincts in her drive for a career. It may be fun being treated like a fragile flower by a boyfriend or a date, but it is
time society stopped assigning positions based on stereotypes. We women must develop and use our wasted female brain power.
Directions: Review your notes from the lecture you viewed on the CD ROM with this module. Use those notes to answer the following question.

Describe how to be most successful in taking a timed essay exam.