

In Pursuit of the Elusive "A"

You don't have to like—or believe in—the whole college grading system. But we don't have to tell you that you'd better get serious about grades anyhow. If you want to enter graduate or professional school, you know that a high G.P.A. is in order. And looking ahead to the tight job market that many college grads now face, it's easy enough to see that grades count there as well.

Tactics and Strategies: An Exam Planner isn't like any study guide you've ever seen. We don't pretend to offer you definitive advice on how to study or how to psyche out your professors or how to ace an exam. We've put in our years on campus, and we know better than to spout words of wisdom that you can never hope to follow—and wouldn't even if you could.

What Tactics and Strategies offers is a laid-back look at the testing scene that may help you better put together your grade game plan—or offer some helpful insights you haven't before considered—or at least give you some interesting reading for an afternoon.

The articles that follow cover everything from why study formulas don't work to a creative test-taking strategy to an unorthodox introduction to paper writing. We've thrown in a new look at an old phenomena— cramming—and a consoling view of six successes who weathered academic crises. And, given the intensity of the grade game for so many students, we give special attention to coping with text anxiety.

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Good reading!

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Inside the Insider Magical Memory Tour 4 The Unending Quest for a Study Formula That Works 4 by Patricia Westfall 9 A Compendium of Study Aids and Advice 9 by Vicki Dennis 10 How To Play the Test Game—and Win. 10 by Don Eastman 15 The more you learn, the more you forget. The more you forget, the 15 Pon Akchin 17

rear and fremound at Examinine	
How To Write a Paper in 1,000 Easy Words	
Famous Failures	
Six Convincing Examples That Grades Aren't Everything by Lisa Greenberg	

INSIDER

3