
Problem Analysis for Tests - by Alessandra Gabriel, 4th year Biomedical Sciences

Sometimes the hardest part of a course is determining when to use a technique. This sheet will help you analyze problems to help you determine what information and formulas are important for which questions.

1) Have a game plan for specific examples.

Often in classes, your professor or TA will go over specific examples and how to approach each one. Put all these examples into one spot to make it easier for your reference when practicing and studying.

2) Read the whole question, word for word.

Mistakes often happen from reading the question too quickly and missing out on what the question is asking of you. It's easy to fall into this when you're stressed for a test, but one tip to help concentrate on the words is to highlight, circle or underline what's important as you read.

3) Identify Key Words.

Associating key words with specific examples from class will help you determine what steps you should use. For example, key words in statistic questions would be portion, versus mean. This will help you identify quickly, which formula to use when hypothesis testing.

4) Know the Basics.

After reading the question, if you're at a loss of how to get from the question to the answer, go back to the basics. For example, if the only thing you know how to calculate is the average based on the information of the question, then calculate the average. Sometimes just focusing on something else, will help you think of what to do next.

5) Refer back to the question when done.

Sometimes, after completing one step, we feel like we've finished the question. But often, we've only finished one part of the question. Referring back to the question will help you to make sure that you've successfully answered what the question was asking you.

