

Name: _____ Date: _____

work faster, dummy!

(You say to yourself.)

It's the same thing over and over:
when you take a test, most people
finish before you.

“I'm dumb,” you think.
“They're smarter than me,” you think.



So,
you stress out,
and **rush** to finish the test,
so you don't look too stupid.

Sound familiar?

If it is, then you need to...

Turn over



... stop it.

Stop WHAT, you ask?

Stop the self-defeating mind games, that's what.

Tips for better grades

Stop predicting the work quality of people who finish quickly.

Take it from an actual teacher: getting work done fast absolutely does NOT mean that the work is any good.

A lot of students get done fast because they don't care about quality; they only care about doing the minimum.

Excellence takes time. The extra time you take to finish something is guaranteed to produce better-quality work.

Don't assume people look down on you because you take a long time.

You're working, and you hear someone say, "I'm done!" and you're not even halfway done.

So you get self-conscious. Well, think about this: Chances are very good that those other people couldn't care less about how long you take. The only thing they probably care about is getting done as fast as possible so they can sleep. Believe it: they're not paying any attention to you.

Quality can't be rushed.

If you had to have an operation, would you tell the doctor to rush through it? If a good friend of yours was cooking a delicious dinner for you, would you stand there and yell, "FASTER!"?

You're not getting out of that classroom before the bell. You might as well take your time and do the best job you can do. Think of how great it will feel to get that "A"!

Name: _____

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SHOW THAT YOU KNOW

Complete this assessment and show that you understand why it's important to take all the time you need to produce the best work you can.

4 tasks



Circle Yes/No: Are these ideas represented in this document?

- | | | | | | |
|----------|-----|----|--|---|--------------------------|
| 1 | Yes | No | People who work faster usually do better quality work. | 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 | Yes | No | Excellence takes time. Take your time and don't rush. | 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 | Yes | No | Don't assume people are paying attention to how fast you work. | 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Read this paragraph about Lewis, who has not yet read this packet. You'll write about what it says in the next step.

Lewis always worries about the fact that it takes him so long to finish his assignments. When he is still working, other students finish up. Lewis imagines what they're probably thinking: "Look at Lewis! He's so dumb! He takes too long to finish working." Lewis is so embarrassed about not finishing yet that he rushes through the assignment and turns it in. Then he puts his head down for the rest of the period. When he gets his paper back, he sees that he made a lot of mistakes.

4 Describe three things that Lewis should start doing to get better grades.

Possible starter: *Lewis needs to do three things so he can...
-or-
Lewis could improve his grades by first...*

12

→

more room on back...

continued from front...

Your total score: out of 12. Here's why:

This score	7	8	9	10	11	12
Equals a %	58	66	75	83	92	100

0 **4** **7** **9** Three separate suggestions are clearly described within the paragraph.

0 **1** **2** **3** All sentences begin with capital letters and end with end punctuation.

impressive: You did an excellent job, making few mistakes. Keep up the high-quality work.

adequate: You did it. Keep working to improve accuracy and quality. Check your work more carefully.

attempted: You tried to do it. You need more practice. Work with your teacher to get better at it.

nonexistent: You didn't do it. Were the directions unclear? Did you forget to do it? Talk with your teacher.

Additional comments: