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**We're on the Web!**

[www.sarasota.k12.fl.us/fdlrs](http://www.sarasota.k12.fl.us/fdlrs)  
[www.sarasota.k12.fl.us/parents](http://www.sarasota.k12.fl.us/parents)

**Date to Remember**

Florida Educational Technology  
Conference  
Orlando—March 22-24, 2006  
Orange County Convention  
Center  
[www.fetc.org](http://www.fetc.org)



# Suncoast Sentinel

## FCAT TIPS for TEACHERS

### Guiding Questions

This year, as in the past, our fourth, eighth, and tenth graders will be required to answer what are termed short and extended response answers when they take the FCAT Reading, Math and Science tests. Quite simply students are asked to respond in their own words or show solutions to problems.

The FCAT reading tests ask students to answer short response questions that require them to write approximately five to eight sentences within approximately five minutes. Short response answers are worth zero to two points each. Extended response answers are worth zero to four points each and take approximately fifteen minutes to write.

Students can earn maximum points if they have written a response that completely and correctly answers the prompts, demonstrates that they understand the passage completely and correctly, have included all the details from the passage necessary to support their points, and that the writing is correct, readable, and effective.

The following are a few guiding questions students should ask as they respond to the short and extended response reading questions:

### ANTS

Answers the questions?

Does the response clearly answer the question **that was asked**?  
Does the response answer **all parts** of the question?

Necessary information?

Is the response **complete**?  
Does it include every bit of information, every detail and example that is **needed**?

Text-based?

Is the response directly and accurately **based on the passage**?  
Can you point to the words and sentences in the passage that **support** the answer?

Supporting details?

Are the details and examples **specific**?  
Are they clear and meaningful?  
Do they avoid words like “things” and “stuff”?

## Web Sites for Kids

US Speller  
[www.usspeller.com](http://www.usspeller.com)

A Free American Online Spelling Tutor & Game with spoken words, spelling lists, scoring and grading system.

Mrs. Glosser's Math Goodies  
[www.mathgoodies.com](http://www.mathgoodies.com)

A free math help site featuring interactive lessons, puzzles and worksheets



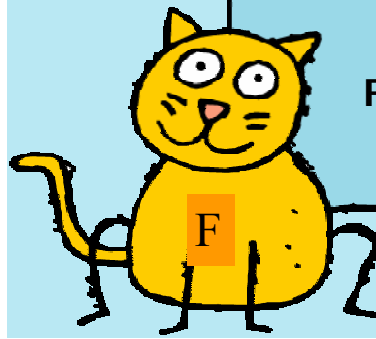
PBS Kids  
[www.pbskids.org](http://www.pbskids.org)

PBS Kids is still the place for shows like Clifford, Dragon Tales, Sesame Street, Barney and Teletubbies, and the website is the home for all of these characters.

[www.Teacher.Scholastic.com](http://www.Teacher.Scholastic.com)  
—A great site for teachers, parents and students alike.. It is chock full of resources for all!



Annual Family Cafe Conference  
& Governor's Summit on Disabilities  
June 2—4, 2005  
Register online  
[www.familycafe.net](http://www.familycafe.net)  
Or call  
1-888-309-2233  
Caribe Royale  
8101 World Center Drive  
Orlando, Florida  
1-707-238-8083



## FCAT TIPS for FAMILIES

### Some Do's and Don'ts when talking to kids about tests

**Do:** How do you feel about next week's test?

**Don't:** You better do your best on next week's test. If you don't you will be left back.

**Do:** You have been working hard and seem very confident in school this year. Do you feel prepared for next week's testing?

**Don't:** You know that test you are taking this week is hard, you better get a good night sleep.

**Do:** Remember, this test is just one of the ways your teachers and parents know about how well you are learning.

**Don't:** You know you didn't do very well on these tests last year. I hope you are planning on trying harder this year.

### Practice deep breathing to reduce anxiety

- Sit upright in a chair with both feet flat on the floor
- Inhale through the nose
- Breathe into the abdomen—not the upper chest
- Hold your breath for a couple of seconds
- Exhale slowly through the nose or mouth
- Take 4—5 deep breaths

