

I was glad I had been to the freshman orientation. The high school was enormous, much bigger than my elementary school. The orientation enabled me to know where things were and what the requirements are. I knew my classroom locations and how to get to them. In high school you have 4 minutes to get between classes, and some can be far away in a school as big as mine. I had met some of the teachers, and I had a new friend who I had met at the orientation, another student who was interested in sports, like me, and we were both going to try out for the basketball team. I hope we can get on the team, but I learned that it is very challenging, that the competition to be on the team is extremely difficult.

Today was my first day, and it was hard. Those four minutes to go from one class to another really isn't a lot of time even though I knew where the classrooms were since I had to go from one end of the building to another to get from gym to math class. I wanted to go to my locker and leave my book, and I did, but that took time. I was worried about being late to my next class, and I was. The math teacher said, "Just be on time tomorrow. I allow one late arrival on the first day, but that's it. I am serious. Only one late-to-class is allowed. After that you have to go to the office to get a pass, and I will mark you tardy. After you get 3 tardies you have to serve a detention."

So I need to be more careful about getting to class, and that's a challenge given such a big building. After math, I went to art class, and my friend also is enrolled in that class. I like my art class a lot because I get to create things. The teacher there showed us how to make portraits. He explained, "A portrait is a way of communicating about a person, it does not show the person exactly as he is, it shows what is important to understand about the person." We just did drawings today, but I know it's going to be great. I like drawing. I had no idea it was so much about math. I divided the page into sections, using a ruler, then did the sketch.

I like my English class, too, I think the teacher is really supportive. Today we wrote about ourselves. The teacher said to just write what you think, we'll be concerned about punctuation later. We could write a paragraph or a poem, and I wrote a poem about me. I think it is a good poem, the teacher said I had used good images to communicate about my feelings.

Lunch was very hurried. I had gone to my locker, and then I arrived at the cafeteria with 12 minutes to eat. I looked for my friend, but he wasn't there. So I sat with people I didn't know, and everyone was eating quickly. The food I got today looked good, but I didn't like it that much, probably it's because I'm still nervous.

I have many choices to make about school. There is an after-school club I can join. It is a club for people who want to learn more about computers. I think I'll sign up for that, but there is another club after school that I like, too, the chess club. I like to play chess. The basketball season is months away. I need to learn how to use a computer. My social studies teacher says it is the one skill you need in every class. My English teacher said the one skill I need in every class is writing. I think I need both skills. I have so many things to think about, so many choices to make.

*Directions: Choose the best answer for each question*

1. How do you think the student will feel on the second day at school?

- a. more worried
- b. more confident
- c. friendlier
- d. skillful

3. What do you think the student will do about lunch on the next day?

- a. choose the same food
- b. choose different food
- c. bring a lunch
- d. skip lunch

2. What do you think will happen if the student is late to math class the next day?

- a. The teacher will send him to the office.
- b. The teacher will ask him to stay after class.
- c. The teacher will say it is ok.
- d. The teacher will give him more homework.

4. How do you think the student will feel about being on the basketball team?

- a. excited
- b. worried
- c. sad
- d. confident

5. *Write your own answer to this question.*

How do you make a prediction?

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**TEACHER NOTES: Develop Students' Skills: Exercise Thinking**

These questions have not been validated, so decisions about student's achievement should not be made based on their responses. They are intended to exercise skills. Recommended activities include: students work in pairs to choose the best response; give students the questions without the responses so they generate their own answers; students make up additional questions; students make up questions like these for another passage.

**Answers:** *You can remove this answer key and then give it to students and ask them to figure out the basis for the correct response.*

Item	1	2	3	4
Answer	b	a	b	a

Question 5 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.

5. You look at the information. You think what could happen.