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 unconventional 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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