State/Standardized Testing–Create Student Buy-In
Inspirational Quotes

Looking for something to help give your students a little extra push during testing? Look no further! I have compiled some inspirational quotes to help students focus and give their test everything that they have. Sometimes, no matter how much you say it, your students don't "hear," your encouragement; letting someone else do the talking can make all the difference.

There are three different pages filled with inspirational quotes for your upper elementary and middle school students. Randomly hand out quotes before testing and allow students to look at the quote during the test for inspiration.

In addition to the quotes, I have included a little bit of information about the person that said the quote. Copy this information on the back side of your quote page prior to cutting. Giving students some context about the author of the quote can help them to relate to the words; it allows them to see that successful people have challenges and hardships that they must overcome.

Check out *My Blog* for other suggestions to help your students to focus, slow down, and avoid random clicking during state/standardized testing.

Teaching In The Real World

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"It's not that I'm so smart, it's just that I stay with problems longer." - Albert Einstein	"Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall." - Confucius	"Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice, and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do." - Pelé
"It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop." - Confucius	"There is no substitute for hard work." - Thomas A. Edison	"There are no shortcuts to any place worth going." - Beverly Sills
"If you can dream it, you can do it." - Walt Disney	"A river cuts through rock, not because of its power, but because of its persistence." - Jim Watkins	"Never doubt yourself, it will only hold you back." - J.M. Barrie
"Energy and persistence conquer all things." - Benjamin Franklin	"It always seems impossible until it's done." - Nelson Mandela	"When something is important enough, you do it even if the odds are not in your favor." - Elon Musk

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Edson Arantes do Nascimento, better known by his nickname Pelé, was a Brazilian professional footballer who played as a forward. Widely regarded as one of the greatest players of all time, he was among the most successful and popular sports figures of the 20th century	Confucius, born Kong Qiu, was a Chinese philosopher of the Spring and Autumn period who is traditionally considered the paragon of Chinese sages, as well as the first teacher in China to advocate mass education	Albert Einstein was a German-born mathematician and physicist who developed the theory of relativity and made significant contributions to quantum mechanics. His mass–energy equivalence formula, $E = mc^2$, is considered "the world's most famous equation". Einstein's theories and vision of physics changed how people understand the universe.
Beverly Sills was an American operatic soprano whose career peak was between the 1950s and 1970s. Although she sang a repertoire from Handel and Mozart to Puccini, Massenet and Verdi, she was especially renowned for her performances in coloratura soprano roles in live opera and recordings	Thomas Alva Edison was an American inventor and businessman who played a key role in ushering in the modern age of electricity. He's best known for inventing the phonograph, incandescent light bulb, and motion picture. Edison was also a skilled manufacturer and marketer, and established the world's first industrial research laboratory. He received 1,093 U.S. patents for his inventions, including improvements to the telegraph, stock ticker, and telephone.	Confucius, born Kong Qiu, was a Chinese philosopher of the Spring and Autumn period who is traditionally considered the paragon of Chinese sages, as well as the first teacher in China to advocate mass education
Sir James Matthew Barrie, 1st Baronet, OM was a Scottish novelist and playwright, best remembered as the creator of Peter Pan. He was born and educated in Scotland and then moved to London, where he wrote several successful novels and plays	James N. Watkins is an award-winning author of twenty traditionally-published books and nearly three-thousand articles.	Walter Elias Disney was an American animator, producer, director, screenwriter, voice actor, entrepreneur, and philanthropist. He was a leader in the American animation industry, advancing cartoon production and transitioning animation from black-and-white shorts to full-length films. Disney is also the namesake of Disneyland and Walt Disney World theme parks.
Elon Reeve Musk is a businessman and U.S. special government employee, best known for his key roles in Tesla, Inc. and SpaceX, and his ownership of Twitter. Musk is the wealthiest individual in the world; as of February 2025, Forbes estimates his net worth to be US$397 billion.	Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela was a South African anti-apartheid activist and politician who served as the first president of South Africa from 1994 to 1999. He was the country's first black head of state and the first elected in a fully representative democratic election	Benjamin Franklin was an American polymath: a writer, scientist, inventor, statesman, diplomat, printer, publisher and political philosopher

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"The greater the obstacle, the more glory in overcoming it." - Molière	"You miss 100% of the shots you don't take." - Wayne Gretzky	"A problem is a chance for you to do your best." - Duke Ellington
"The harder you work, the luckier you get." - Gary Player	"Opportunities are usually disguised as hard work, so most people don't recognize them." - Ann Landers	"Don't let what you can't do stop you from doing what you can do." - John Wooden
"Work hard in silence, let your success be your noise." - Frank Ocean	"The only limit to the height of your achievements is the reach of your dreams and your willingness to work for them." - Michelle Obama	"Aim for the moon. If you miss, you may hit a star." - W. Clement Stone
"Your goals are the road maps that guide you and show you what is possible for your life." - Les Brown	"The greater danger for most of us lies not in setting our aim too high and falling short, but in setting our aim too low and achieving our mark." - Michelangelo	"Believe you can and you're halfway there." - Theodore Roosevelt

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Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington (1899-1974) was an American jazz composer, pianist, and bandleader who left a lasting impact on music and American culture. His recordings remain popular examples of big-band jazz. Ellington was an instrumental composer, and many of his songs were originally written as instrumentals. He was known for pushing the boundaries of jazz and classical music. His piece "Creole Rhapsody" was inspired by the struggles of African-Americans.	Wayne Douglas Gretzky CC is a Canadian American former professional ice hockey player and former head coach. He played 20 seasons in the National Hockey League for four teams from 1979 to 1999	Jean-Baptiste Poquelin, known by his stage name Molière, was a French playwright, actor, and poet, widely regarded as one of the great writers in the French language and world literature. His extant works include comedies, farces, tragicomedies, comédie-ballets, and more
John Robert Wooden was an American basketball coach and player. Nicknamed "the Wizard of Westwood", he won ten National Collegiate Athletic Association national championships in a 12-year period as head coach for the UCLA Bruins, including a record seven in a row	Esther Pauline "Eppie" Lederer, better known by the pen name Ann Landers, was an American advice columnist and eventually a nationwide media celebrity. She began writing the "Ask Ann Landers" column in 1955 and continued for 47 years, by which time its readership was 90 million people.	Gary James Player DMS OIG is a South African retired professional golfer who is widely considered to be one of the greatest golfers of all time. During his career, Player won nine major championships on the regular tour and nine major championships on the Champions Tour
William Clement Stone was an American businessman, philanthropist and New Thought self-help book author	Michelle LaVaughn Robinson Obama is an American attorney and author who served as the first lady of the United States from 2009 to 2017, being married to Barack Obama, the 44th president of the United States. Raised on the South Side of Chicago, Obama is a graduate of Princeton University and Harvard Law School.	Sir James Matthew Barrie, 1st Baronet, OM was a Scottish novelist and playwright, best remembered as the creator of Peter Pan. He was born and educated in Scotland and then moved to London, where he wrote several successful novels and plays
Theodore Roosevelt Jr., also known as Teddy or T. R., was the 26th president of the United States, serving from 1901 to 1909. Roosevelt previously was involved in New York politics, including serving as the state's 33rd governor for two years.	Michelangelo di Lodovico Buonarroti Simoni was an Italian sculptor, painter, architect, and poet during the High Renaissance. His work, inspired by classical antiquity, is considered to have profoundly influenced Western art. Michelangelo is best known for his ceiling frescoes in the Sistine Chapel, including *Scenes from Genesis* and *The Last Judgment*. His work is praised for its artistic realism and anatomical detail.	Leslie Calvin Brown is an American politician and motivational speaker. He was a member of the Ohio House of Representatives from 1977 to 1981

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"Every strike brings me closer to the next home run." - Babe Ruth	"Doing the best at this moment puts you in the best place for the next moment." - Oprah Winfrey	"The measure of intelligence is the ability to change." - Albert Einstein
"To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often." - Winston Churchill	"If you really look closely, most overnight successes took a long time." - Steve Jobs	"The biggest room in the world is the room for improvement." - Helmut Schmidt
"Every day, in every way, I'm getting better and better." - Émile Coué	"I don't focus on what I'm up against. I focus on my goals and I try to ignore the rest." -Venus Williams	"Nothing is impossible. The word itself says 'I'm possible.'" -Audrey Hepburn
"Life will never be the same because there has never been anyone like you...ever in the world." -Nancy Tillman	"You gain strength, courage, and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You must do the thing you think you cannot do." -Eleanor Roosevelt	"You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose. You're on your own. And you know what you know. And YOU are the one who'll decide where to go..." - Dr. Seuss

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Helmut Heinrich Waldemar Schmidt was a German politician and member of the Social Democratic Party of Germany, who served as the chancellor of West Germany from 1974 to 1982. Before becoming chancellor, he served as the minister of defence and the minister of finance in the government of Willy Brandt	Steven Paul Jobs was an American businessman, investor, and inventor who co-founded Apple Inc. with Steve Wozniak in the 1970s. Jobs and Wozniak launched the Apple II computer from his parents' garage, and Jobs is considered a pioneer of the microcomputer revolution. He also introduced the Apple Macintosh at a 1984 news conference at De Anza College, where he attended in the 1970s.	Sir Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill was a British statesman, military officer, and writer who was Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1940 to 1945 and again from 1951 to 1955
Audrey Hepburn was a Belgian-born British actress and humanitarian who starred in 31 films, including *Roman Holiday* (1953), *Breakfast at Tiffany's* (1961), and *My Fair Lady* (1964). The American Film Institute ranked her the third-greatest female screen legend of Classical Hollywood. Hepburn was also a fashion icon and muse for Givenchy, and was inducted into the International Best Dressed Hall of Fame.	Venus Ebony Starr Williams is an American inactive professional tennis player. She has been ranked as the world No. 1 in women's singles by the Women's Tennis Association for 11 weeks, and as the world No. 1 in women's doubles for 8 weeks	Émile Coué de la Châtaigneraie was a French psychologist, pharmacist, and hypnotist who introduced a popular method of psychotherapy and self-improvement based on optimistic autosuggestion
Theodor Seuss Geisel, who wrote and illustrated over 60 books under the pen name Dr. Seuss, was an American cartoonist and children's author. He added the "doctor" title in college to make his characters and writing more credible, and to respond to his father's wish for him to earn a doctorate. Though not a doctor, Dartmouth awarded him an honorary doctorate in 1955.	Anna Eleanor Roosevelt was an American political figure, diplomat, and activist. She was the longest-serving first lady of the United States, during her husband Franklin D. Roosevelt's four terms as president from 1933 to 1945. Through her travels, public engagement, and advocacy, she largely redefined the role	Nancy Tillman is an American author and illustrator of children's books. Tillman's picture books focus on the love parents have for their children with animals

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