**Devising a Strategy**

1. ***NEVER*** underestimate an opponent. Encourage him to underestimate you.

2. Make your opponent fence his weakest game:

* Opponents with strong attacks should be attacked.
* Good defenders should be enticed to attack.
* Opponents who cannot handle themselves in close quarters should be led into infighting situations.

3. If a particular strategy or move works, do not abandon it until your opponent proves he has an appropriate counter move. Conversely, do not persist in a move or strategy that is not working even if you know the cause. The bout is not the time to correct technique.

4. Once your original intention has been countered replace it with another or use it as camouflage for the next maneuver.

5. When fencing a technically superior fencer use unusual strategy and take larger risks.

6. Against a weaker opponent stick to basic tactics and technique. It is often more productive to make simple attacks against poor opponents than waiting to try to parry a wild uncontrolled attack.

7. Opponents with strong attacks should be disturbed in their preparation. For example:

* Changes in rhythm, distance, and direction
* False attacks with beats, binds, etc.
* True and false counterattacks

8. After an attacks fails, move in or out quickly. Don’t stay around to see what happens.

9. Always be in a state of ***movement***. **Never** plant yourself.