5 CASPer Test Tips

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1. **Practice typing daily**
   - One of the most common opinions about the CASPer test is that students feel tight on time when answering questions. For this reason, practicing typing daily leading up to the test date can help you get more content written down in the allotted time. This will also give you more time to think and construct your answers. One way to do this is to actually time yourself writing out answers to a CASPer practice scenario to help you simulate the real assessment.

2. **Build your responses around the CanMEDS framework**
   - A few of the CASPer scenarios will be personal questions and will likely ask you to "describe a time when". Oftentimes students blank out thinking of scenarios on the spot or it takes them too long to think of a situation which comes at the expense of time spent answering the question. When preparing for CASPer, spend time thinking of 2-4 scenarios that are versatile enough to be used for multiple CanMEDS roles. For example, pick a scenario that can be used as an example for both communication and leadership. Having a few scenarios in mind before the test will spare you time and stress of thinking on the spot.

3. **Read all three questions at a station before answering**
   - Students are often quick to answer the first question at a station and find that they run out of time or write a lot less for the later questions. Reading all the questions before beginning is a useful tip because it will help you organize your thoughts and will make it easier for you to place certain points under each question. Not to mention, sometimes when students are unsure of what to write at a station, reading all three questions can give you clues as to what is important to comment on for the station and can guide you in answering the question.

4. **Structure your answers using a framework that works for you**
   - One of the hardest parts about the CASPer test is staying organized in your responses. A way to overcome this is to practice answering each question in the same way, using a framework that makes sense to you. An example of a framework is provided for you below, but keep in mind that there is no right or wrong structure – use or come up with whatever framework works best for you and your style.
     - Acknowledge the problem and gather more information
     - State perspectives of stakeholders in the scenario
     - State your role in the situation and the decision/solution
     - If you have time, talk about how the problem can be prevented in the future

5. **Prepare ahead of time an array of solutions**
   - Similar to Tip #2, coming up with solutions on the spot might be difficult in a time-sensitive environment and you are less likely to come up with something creative in the heat of the moment. One piece of advice is to spend time preparing a whole array of solutions for a broad topic of problems that you predict might be asked on the test. For example, come up with solutions for problems with communication and group conflict. Perhaps come up with examples on how to be a good leader in a team environment. You can even spend time thinking of a few ways to show empathy in a scenario. While these might not be a viable solution for every scenario on the test, they will at least serve as a starting point to help you come up with a suitable answer.