

Tips for Passing D265 in one week (or less!)

Day 1: Section 2 “Evaluating Arguments and Evidence: Source Credibility” Section 3 “Identifying Bias and Its Impact”

- Open the **Course Material**, skim Section 2, then take the **Section 2, Lesson 1 Quiz** and the **Section 2 test**. *Write down each question you missed with the correct answer in your notes.*
- Skim Section 3, but slow down/pay attention to each of the following terms. *In your notes, write down the term and a quick/easy definition that the text provides.* (Hint- each of the embedded videos in Section 3 with the [WGU logo](#) can help with this and should be watched)
 - Principle of Charity, Confirmation Bias, Alief, Heuristics, Satisficing, Representativeness, Anchoring and Adjustment, Availability, Algorithm bubble, Selection bias, and System One and System Two
- Complete each **Section 3 quiz** (Lessons 1-4) and the **Section 3 Test**. *Write down each question you missed with the correct answer in your notes.*
- End your day studying your notes, working to distinguish the different types of biases from each other (e.g., “confirmation” is when I am more willing to accept information that *confirms* with what I already believe, “availability” is when I tend to use information that easily comes to mind, etc.)

Day 2: Section 4 “Making a Claim – Fallacies”

Section 1 “Evaluating Arguments and Evidence – Basic Components”

- Watch the “[Fallacies of Relevance](#)” video (Section 4 Lesson 1.1), the “[Fallacies of Weak Induction](#)” video (Section 4 Lesson 2.1), and the “[Fallacies of Presumption and the Fallacy Fallacy](#)” video (Section 4 Lesson 3.1). *For each fallacy covered, write down the name of the fallacy and a quick/easy definition in your notes.*
- Complete the **Quizzes** in **Section 4, Lessons 1, 2, and 3**. *Write down each question you missed with the correct answer in your notes.*
- Watch the “[Foundational Concepts: Propositions and Arguments](#)” video in Section 1 Lesson 2.2. Then, skim Section 1 Lessons 1-3, completing each **Lesson quiz** along the way.
- End your day by reviewing/studying your day 1 notes and begin reviewing the material from day 2. Work to distinguish the different fallacies from each other with simple examples/definitions (e.g., “Red Herring” is when I ignore the

argument and *change the topic*, “Ad Hominem” is when I ignore the argument and *make a personal attack*, etc.).

Day 3: Section 1 “Evaluating Arguments and Evidence – Validity or Strength of Arguments and Fallacies”

- Watch the “[D265 Evaluating Deductive and Inductive Arguments](#)” and the “[Working with the Argument Decision Tree](#)” videos in Section 1 Lesson 4.3. *Draw the Decision Tree in your notes and write down the 3 different questions/decisions you will need to make each time you evaluate an argument.*
- Then, skim Section 1 Lesson 4 and complete the [Section 1, Lesson 4 quiz](#). *Write down each question you missed with the correct answer in your notes.*
- Complete this [D265 Analyzing Arguments Practice](#) quiz for extra practice.
- Watch the “[Formal Arguments](#)” video in Section 1 Lesson 5.1, taking notes on the key terms mentioned (antecedent, consequent, etc.). Skim the rest of Lesson 5, then take the [Section 1, Lesson 5 quiz](#). *Write down any question/answer you struggle with.*
- Complete this [D265 Formal Fallacies](#) quiz for extra practice.
- Finally, complete the [Section 1 Test](#). *Write down each question you missed with the correct answer in your notes.*
- End your day by reviewing the biases, fallacies, and any questions/concepts you struggled with from Day 3. *Do not worry if you struggled with a few of the technical concepts- the important thing is to understand how to approach arguments as a whole (3 separate decisions to make, the difference between deductive and inductive, how to handle conditional if/then arguments, etc.).*

Day 4: Section 4 “Making a Claim – Argument Mapping”

- Watch the “[Argument Mapping: Three Questions](#)” video in Section 4 Lesson 4.1, then skim the rest of Lesson 4. Take the [Section 4, Lesson 4 quiz](#) and *write down each question you missed with the correct answer in your notes.*
- Watch the “[Hidden Assumption](#)” video in Section 4 Lesson 5.1 then skim the rest of Lesson 5 and 6. Then, take the [Quizzes in Section 4, Lessons 5 and 6](#) and the [Section 4 Test](#). *Write down each question you missed with the correct answer in your notes.*
- Spend time reviewing all your notes, then take the [Section 5 Practice Test](#). This test provides feedback for each answer choice, so don’t be afraid to click each answer (and then submit) to read why various answers are right or wrong. The goal is to understand *why* the correct answer is correct.
- Finally- put away all your notes and then take [the Pre-Assessment](#) (PreOA) listed on the D265 course home page. Take your time here, imagine that you’re taking

the Objective Assessment. Carefully read each question-and-answer choice and eliminate answers that don't make sense.

Day 5-7 (as/if needed)

- If you do very well on the PreOA (typically, each section is green or blue and the overall score is past the blackline), immediately schedule the Objective Assessment (OA). You're ready!
- If you struggle with the PreOA, you will receive a custom study plan from your course instructor within 24 hours. (If you don't, reach out to them and ask for one!) The plan may suggest that you review certain sections/lessons, contain additional resources/quizzes, and/or links to concept-specific videos. Spend time reviewing the sections/concepts identified as problematic, while safely ignoring sections that you've already demonstrated competency in. [Remember: the goal is to be competent, not perfect.]
- Once you have completed the study plan and spent additional time reviewing/studying the sections and your notes, retake the PreOA. If you do well, you're ready!
- If you have any questions or concerns, schedule a meeting with your course instructor.

While we understand that life often happens, setting a goal to take your PreOA within a few days of starting the course (and the OA when ready!) will help you stay motivated and finish this class as quickly as possible. Don't get discouraged if you fall behind- just add a few days to your "end-by" goal and keep pushing forward!