



Flipping Physics Lecture Notes:
8 General Suggestions
for the
Free Response Questions
of any
AP Physics Exam

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- 1) Pre-Read All Free Response Questions
- 2) Write Legibly
- 3) Organize Your Solutions and Label All Parts
- 4) SHOW ALL YOUR WORK!!
- 5) Do Not Break Forces in Free Body Diagrams into Components
 - a. Redraw the Free Body Diagram and break into components there.
- 6) Answer Every Part of Every Problem
- 7) Dimension Your Answers
- 8) Leave Algebra Heavy Solutions for Later
- 9) Read Carefully!

I made this video called, “8 General Suggestions for the Free Response Questions of any AP Physics Exam.” And then I proceeded to make video solutions to the 3 Free Response Questions of the 1998 AP Physics C Mechanics Exam and I learned a valuable lesson. I should have given 9 suggestions. I should have added a 9th suggestion: “Read Carefully.”

I find it quite funny that I didn’t read carefully enough because (1) for years it is something I berated my students about and (2) it is something I did not do on the third free response question. You see, I didn’t answer part (a) completely. I missed the small word “magnitude”. I simply drew the forces in the Free Body Diagrams, however, I didn’t explicitly solve for the Magnitudes of the Forces. All the magnitudes of the forces are in my solutions because I had to find each one to solve the rest of the problem; however, I didn’t quite answer part (a) correctly.

I don’t know how the AP graders would grade my solution because all the physics is there, just not in the right places; however, I do feel they would not have given my solution full credit. So, please learn from my mistake and read the questions carefully. Don’t have to eat humble pie, like me.