How to Perform Well in Contests

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Goal

- Equip with practical strategies to stay focused and perform effectively during competitive programming contests.
- Emphasize calmness, structured thinking, and adaptability.
- Build confidence and refine the problem-solving approach.

Remain Calm in Contests

- **Focus on Your Plan**
  - Avoid panicking even when the problems seem tough.
  - Take deep breaths and concentrate on one task at a time.
- **Stay Positive**
  - Acknowledge that it's okay to struggle; everyone faces challenges.

Take One Problem at a Time

- **Avoid Multitasking**
  - Read the problem carefully and fully understand it before diving into coding.
- **Break It Down**
  - Divide the problem into smaller parts and tackle them step by step.

Avoid Looking at Leaderboards

- **Stay in Your Zone**
  - Focusing on the leaderboard can distract and demotivate you.

- **Time Management**
  - Use contest time effectively by focusing on solving problems.

Try to Prove Your Solutions

- **Think Before You Code**
  - Ensure your solution logically addresses the problem constraints.
- **Test Cases**
  - Verify your solution with edge cases and small inputs.

Use Pen and Paper

- **Visualize the Problem**
  - Sketch diagrams, write equations, or simulate the process manually.
- **Clarity of Thought**
  - Helps in organizing your ideas and identifying potential issues.

Don't Try to Fit Algorithms into Problems

- **Reason Your Ideas**
  - Understand the problem requirements before deciding on an approach.
- **Adaptability**
  - Be flexible in your thinking rather than forcing a known algorithm.

Motivation and Discipline

- **Consistency is Key**
  - Daily practice is more effective than sporadic bursts.
- **Stay Motivated**
  - Celebrate small victories.
  - Remember why you started CP.

Q & A

- Your **questions**, my **answers!**

Thankyou!

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