

## The X-Ray Attack (Skewer Power) “Advanced” Help Guide

A **Skewer** is just like a Pin, except that when the more valuable piece in front moves, the less valuable piece behind it is exposed.

**Diagram 1:** In the first problem you will see that there are two Skewers you can do. The first will Skewer the Black King to the Rook. You can do this with your only remaining minor piece. The other Skewer on the board is between the Black King and Queen. You can see that they are on the same rank. You can Skewer them with your only major piece left. You can tell which one is stronger by understanding which piece has more value. The Queen or the Rook?

**Diagram 2:** The second problem is just like the first one. There are two Skewers on the board. The first Skewers the White King to the Knight. You need to use your one of your minor piece that attacks the diagonal squares to accomplish this. The next Skewer is with the White King and Queen. They are on the same rank so it will be easy to perform this Skewer if you use your major piece that attacks that rank.

**Diagram 3:** The best way for White to continue in this position is to start off with a Rook sacrifice that will get the Pawn off of the d6 square. Once the Pawn has moved you can move your other Rook over to perform the Skewer. The Black King will be forced to move and you will win the Black Queen.

**Diagram 4:** The last problem on your homework calls for a three move forcing combination that wins for White. You can do this by first putting the Black King into Check with your only remaining major piece. The King will be forced to move to b8. From here you want to put him in Check again with your major piece. The King will then be forced to move to c7. Now here is where you will perform the Skewer. The King and Rook will be on the same rank. Use your major piece to Skewer them and you will win a free Rook.