



10 Study Secrets of Great Students



You finished your English paper in math class, so you didn't hear the math assignment. Because you didn't bring your math book home with you, you'll have to do math during history tomorrow. Then you won't be listening as the teacher is reviewing for the test. "Oh, well," you say to yourself, "reviewing wouldn't help me much anyway. I haven't done the history reading yet."

Life doesn't have to be this hard. There are things you can do to help yourself be more successful in school. They're not difficult, either—anyone can learn them. Here are 10 study secrets you can start using today.



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Set goals

1

It's been said that a goal is a "dream with a deadline." Goals help you focus on the future so you can make your dreams come true.

Goals need to be *specific* and include a *time frame*. It's not enough to say, "I'd like to do better in math." Instead, say, "I'd like to raise my math average to at least a 90 this quarter."

Write your goal on a piece of paper. Don't laugh—this is one of the most important steps in turning your goal from dream to reality. Post the goal where you can see it.

Now figure out what you'll need to do to reach your goal. How much time do you spend on math assignments and studying now? How much more time will you have to spend to reach your goal? Write down your plan and check it regularly.

GOAL: Raise my math average to a 90 this quarter.

PLAN:

Plan your time

2

Did you ever waste an entire night texting friends when you were supposed to be studying? It happens to everyone—but successful students know that they have to plan their time so it doesn't happen very often.

The old saying, "If you fail to plan, you plan to fail" is true. If you're going to fit all the things you *want* to do in with the things you *need* to do, you have to plan carefully.

Use a calendar. Write in the things you have to do—soccer practice, babysitting, computer class. Write down all your assignments on the day they're due. Now decide what to do when in order to finish everything. If you have soccer practice on Wednesday, you may have to write your science report on Tuesday. If you have play rehearsal at night, you'll need to study right after school. And if you have a conflict, remember—school's your first "job." Everything else comes afterward.

Study every day

3

Athletes work out every day. Musicians practice every day. Successful students study every day. Learning any subject is a lot

like putting together a puzzle. You do it piece by piece and eventually, the whole picture becomes clear. On a day when you have no assignments, you can do a quick review of vocabulary or math facts. Or take a look at your calendar and get a head start on an upcoming project.

Take notes in class

4 Students who take notes have something in common: They earn better grades. Here's a secret they've figured out: Teachers almost always *tell* you what's likely to show up on the test. So if you take notes, you'll know what to study.

Review your notes shortly after class

5 A quick review will help you move the information into your brain's long-term memory.

Take five or 10 minutes of your study time to review your class notes, and you'll be amazed at how much more you remember when test time comes around.

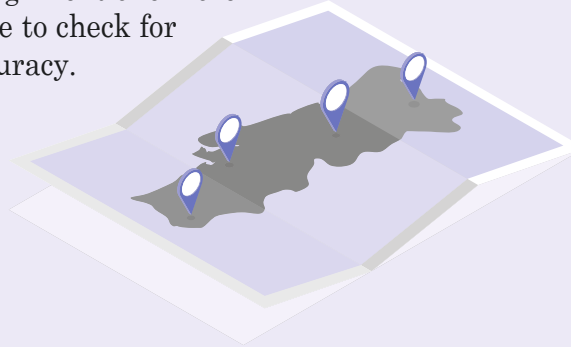


Make sure you have the tools you need

6 Would you show up to paint a house without a paintbrush or a roller? Of course not. So why show up in history class without a pencil and a notebook? Bring your tools to work with you.

Check the details

7 Often, it's the little things that make the difference between an average project and a great one. Proofread your English paper before you hand it in. Include a map with your geography report. Go over your math assignment one more time to check for accuracy.



Get ready the night before

8 Does morning at your house look like something out of a disaster movie—you're rushing around trying to get dressed while searching frantically for your science packet? There's a way to avoid most of that chaos: Get ready ahead of time.

Have one place in your house where you keep all your school stuff—a cardboard box, a plastic crate or a shelf in your room. Last thing at night, pack everything you need in your schoolbag so you're ready to walk out the door in the morning.

If you're working in a group, be willing to do a little more than "your share"

9 In many classes, teachers want students to work in groups. You can make your group successful by doing a little more than you absolutely have to. This habit will also make you a better employee (and, come to think of it, a better family member).

Use a variety of study methods

10 Putting information into your brain in multiple ways helps you learn and remember it. So experiment with various study strategies. Get creative! Rewrite or type notes using different colors or fonts. Make quizzes for yourself by writing questions you think may appear on the test. Record yourself making a video or "podcast" about a history chapter—then play it back to double your study time.

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