

"There is no substitute for hard work."
-Thomas Edison

Tips for Academic Success

1.) Get full credit or at least most of the credit on all homework and class work. To do this you need to be thorough in every answer and write detailed and complete answers for everything. Doing the minimum is no longer good enough for an A or B. You need to show that you have thought about every assignment and put in complete effort. Every zero that you get sets you farther back on the grading scale.

2.) Be thoughtful in your reading. Remember, you are studying this material, not reading it for pleasure. Think about your reading environment. Reading in bed before you sleep is probably not the best place if you need to remember details.

For reading quizzes, if you have a hard time focusing on the reading there are a couple things you can do.

- a) Take notes on post-its as you read. You can read these post-its to review for quizzes.
- b) Listen to the audio book as you read. This will help your mind not to wander while reading. The CDs are available for checkout at the local library, or it can be downloaded directly to your device from iTunes. *
- c) Watch the film version of the book (both before and after reading the text). When we know what to expect to happen, it is easier to understand when it does. *
- d) Read spark notes (again, before and after reading the text). Reading these chapter summaries is not enough for a full understand of the text, but it can aid in comprehension. *

* Before using any of these tips, you should check with your English teacher to get the okay.

**Please remember that these do not replace reading the book, you have to do that too. These tips will just aid in comprehension.

3) Take detailed notes during class. If you have a hard time remembering what the teachers say, then write everything they say down. This may seem like a lot, and it is, but you will have to work hard to get the grade you are after. This means you need to **LISTEN** at all times. Again, check the quote at the top of the page.

4) Take responsibility for yourself. Do you have friends in the class who distract you from your work? Do you socialize when you are supposed to be collaborating? If so, take responsibility for yourself and your own grade and do what you know you need to do. Set an example for your friends and maybe you will all be more successful.

5) Advocate for yourself. Do you have a question? Ask! Go see your teacher brunch, lunch, tutorial, or before/after school to go over an assignment *before* it's due. Teachers are here to help you, so take advantage.

6) STUDY!! This seems like a no-brainer, but many students do not actually study. This means that before a test (not the day before, but maybe three-five days before) review your notes and any other materials we used in class. Do this for about 20 minutes or so each night and the night before the test do it for maybe an hour or so. Turn off your phone, TV, whatever it is that easily distracts you and **FOCUS**. This is the only way to *effectively* learn tough material.