**[How to Do Well Academically in High School](http://www.wikihow.com/Do-Well-Academically-in-High-School)**

If you are in High School and are thinking about college, you have to do well academically. Most people think that in order to do well, they will have to spend 8 hours every night studying and doing homework. This is totally not true.

**1) Take Notes In Class!**

Sometimes, it’s hard to focus during class. Especially if it’s not your favorite subject. Especially if some major drama went down at lunch that you feel the need to pass notes about with the person next to you. And especially if it’s the last class of the day and you just want to go home.

The best way to keep your brain on track is to force yourself to take really diligent notes. Don’t worry about writing down everything the teacher is saying, but be sure to jot down all the most important parts of the lesson. The human brain is an awesome thing: the simple act of writing something down means you actually remember it better. This means that not only will you have a better chance of remembering the content, but you’ll also have helpful notes as a study tool come test time.

**2) Take Advantage of Teachers**

Contrary to how it sometimes feels, your teachers want you to do well. If you feel like you’re struggling in a class, **make sure to let your teacher know!**Often, they’ll be able to explain the lesson in a different way, or work one-on-one with you. Sometimes, teachers offer extra study sessions at lunch or after school. Go to these! An extra 30 minutes of going over the material with the teacher is invaluable, especially because they’ll often focus directly on the stuff that’s going to be on the test. And best of all?.

**3) Make Friends With the Smart Kids**

No, we’re not suggesting that you befriend someone so you can copy their homework, or that you ditch your current set of friends for an entire new crew. But don’t be afraid to socialize with the kid who gets perfect scores in Trig, or who manages to write killer essays. Kids who get good grades often have (shocker!) good study habits, and we all know our friends’ habits tend to rub off on us. If they hang out in the library after school, then maybe you can, too. And if you’re struggling with a subject, they’ll probably be more than happy to tutor you. Sometimes kids your own age can explain things better than the teachers.

**4) Don’t Procrastinate**

Omg, I know the internet is sooooo enticing, and your big project isn’t due till the end of the month. But procrastination brings nothing but stress, the wrath of your parents and teachers, and those late-night white-lipped trips to Walmart to buy a poster board for a presentation that’s due the next morning. Honestly, life is too short to get stressed out like that! And it’s also too short to get grades that could have been higher, if you’d only studied a bit more.

Working on a project or studying for 20 minutes a day doesn’t take a great chunk out of your free time, and can really help cement the material. Put a master calendar with all your long-term assignments up in your room — or better yet, the fridge, where your parents can see it, too. This will help you keep an eye on what’s coming up.

**5) Have a Study Space**

If you have trouble concentrating, it really helps to have a place to do your homework that’s far from the computer, your cellphone, and the TV. If this means that the only place in the world where you can really buckle down and concentrate is the library, then by all means, get yourself to a library. Otherwise, set aside a space in your house where your family knows not to bother you, and make sure it’s a different spot from where you usually relax and hang out. That way, you’ll be able to easily put yourself into “work mode”.

**6) Learn from Old Tests and Projects**

Lots of people get a test or essay back, see the final grade, and never look at it again. But if you really want to improve, you have to see what you’ve been doing wrong in the first place! If it’s an essay, what types of things did you get marked down for? Was it your examples, was it grammatical errors, or was it your word usage? On tests, do you tend to do better on multiple choice than on free-answer, or vice versa? Bring your test to your teacher and ask him or her what you should focus on next time to improve your grade.