

College Student Survival Guide

<http://bruteforcestudyguide.com/>



STUDENT SURVIVAL GUIDE INTRODUCTION

College offers great many great opportunities to improve not only your earning potential but also yourself as a person. But you must be aware of the pitfalls. Too much partying, college burn-out, lack of study skills and especially poor money management can doom even the most dedicated student. This Student Survival Guide is designed to help you avoid the pitfalls and identify your weaknesses.

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College Entrance Examinations

Starting in high school the counselors, teachers and parents all start using acronyms. Now life is difficult enough and now everyone is throwing all these initials around expecting you to not only know what they mean, but to score well on them. Well never, fear, there are many college bound students in the same boat as you that are wondering what the heck a PSAT really is. Seriously, you should know what these initials are by now, but you still may not have a good grasp on what it really involves. This article will serve as a guideline and help you better understand this test that you are headed toward.

PSAT or Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test

The PSAT is kind of a practice test that helps students determine their placement and how much preparation they need before they take on the SAT. This can give you a good idea of how the questions are worded, what is expected and if the test is easy or difficult for you. Some students make the mistake of believing that because they aced the PSAT that the SAT will be the same and never even study. That is not advisable and it may be

that you got lucky with the PSAT. So always, make sure that you prepare before any exam, unless you just have money and early mornings to blow!

The PSAT is made up of two reading sessions, two math sessions and one writing session. The questions are multiple choice or guess, as many prefer to say except for the writing portion of the test. The allotted time for the test is a little over two hours, but not everyone takes that long and others need the entire time. Two hours is not the maximum given, but only a guideline.

The reading sessions are approximately twenty-five minutes apiece and involves critical reading, vocabulary as well as determining the relationship between words. The most important part of the reading section of the PSAT is to ensure that you read the sections carefully. There are fifty questions in the reading section so it is important to adhere to a time schedule. Hurrying through this part of the exam will lower your score, because there might be a trick or two! Pace yourself to ensure that you are not carelessly answering the questions, but that you are not taking too much time either. Those taking the PSAT today will not have those all famous analogies to look forward to as they have been eliminated, darned of luck!

The math sessions are approximately twenty-five minutes apiece and consist of word problems, algebra, graphs, geometry and statistics. The math section consists of thirty multiple-choice questions and ten grid questions. Performance on the math section can be enhanced greatly with practicing and brushing up on math skills with a good PSAT preparation guide.

The writing section of the PSAT involves a thirty-minute allotment where the test taker is expected to answer questions based on a given writing sample. The student will answer multiple choice questions based on finding mistakes, poor sentence structure and other grammatical errors. The best way to prepare for the writing section of the PSAT is to practice with the given exercises in the PSAT study guide. There are thirty-nine questions that must be answered in thirty minutes in the writing section. Warning: many first time students fail the writing portion of the exam because they blow this section off.

A perfect score on the PSAT is eighty and the lowest is a twenty. Most students that are still in high school that take the exam score about a

fifty. This could be greatly improved if the students made use of reference material. The mind gets better with practice and certainly over time, so it is imperative to study for the PSAT and SAT. On the Internet you will see a ton of study guides, courses and tapes that will raise your score. Many of these products will, but you need to make sure that you are getting a proven product. So, how do you know if it is proven or not. Look at the testimonials of other students, if there are no testimonials, avoid making the purchase. If others have benefited from the product than it is safe to assume that you can do the same.

Most high schools begin trying to get their junior and senior classes to take the PSAT. This is a great time to take the test to begin preparing in the areas that you need help in or scored poorly. If you start preparing early you can eliminate some of the stress and possibly even get more of an opportunity for financial aid and/or scholarship money. The quicker you have the SAT results the more likely you are to be granted money, that you don't have to pay back. So, do not wait or put off taking the PSAT, consider it a practice and preparation for the SAT.

There are also several practice tests on the Internet, but are not all that you will need to prepare for the PSAT or SAT. Granted the free practice tests can give you an idea of the test type questions, but it is not a good preparation strategy. Do not fall into the "cannot afford it trap", find a way because the test is not cheap and you do not want to waste the money failing the test!

Additional resources:

Standardized Tests

At some point in your life, you'll probably have to take a standardized test. If you're a high-schooler preparing for college, you might take the [SAT](#) or [The ACT Standardized Test](#). If you're applying for grad school, you could take the GRE.

<http://www.bruteforcestudyguide.com/standardizedtests.html>

Better Grades in Five Days.

A free, five day, test taking skills, mini-course.

<http://bruteforcestudyguide.com/pre.html>

Study Skills

Study skills are essential to success in college. There are many students that just end up banging their head against the wall, as they study for hours but still don't receive the grades they desire. One essential step to improve your study skills is to improve your note taking.

HOW TO TAKE GOOD LECTURE NOTES

Managing yourself means more than keeping up good personal hygiene, although we certainly hope that ranks right up there on your list of priorities! No, what we mean by managing yourself is staying on the ball. Having a pretty good idea of where you're headed and what you need to do to get there.

In this case, where you're headed is easy; you're headed to the end of the semester. After that, you're headed to the end of the year, and eventually, to your college degree. Now, what do you need to do to get there? Well, you need to know what papers, assigned reading, and tests will be looming on the immediate horizon so you can be ready for them. You need to have—or brush up on—certain skills to do this work. You need to know where and how to get information and help, and you need to know a couple of basic academic ground rules.

Taking Good Lecture Notes

Better nail down this skill right away, if you don't already have it, because you're going to need it soon. Picture this: You're studying for a test, anxious and kind of mad at yourself because you waited until the night before—again—after you vowed to change your procrastinating ways. You open your notebook and, for the first time, really look at your lecture notes. Something awful begins to dawn on you: "My God," you say out loud, "these are pitiful!" A split-second later, the grim realization hits: "Oh, no, I'm going to flunk!"

Then, assuming it's not too late, you start feverishly racking your brains, desperately trying to remember the name of that girl who sat next to you—yeah, yeah, you know, Nick's friend, the one from Kansas whose oldest sister knew your brother when he was in college. Maybe she took better notes, you tell yourself in a panic.

Forget it. You're doomed.

There's an obvious, easy way to avoid this nightmare: Take good notes. You can't escape the lecture. You can't get around it; the lecture is still the most common form of instruction in college. It's a fact of your life right now—as inevitable, perhaps, as the need for Oxy 5 and caffeine. The typical college student will sit through literally hundreds of hours of lectures during an undergraduate career. Most students actually stay awake throughout these lectures; many even listen hard and try to learn. And yet, only a relative few ever develop an adequate system for taking good lecture notes. Meanwhile, the many students who take terrible notes wonder why they don't do better on exams.

Fact: Good note-taking is essential to good academic progress
Of course, there's no one perfect system for taking good lecture notes, and nearly everybody develops some personal code of abbreviations, patterns, and outline forms. Nevertheless, there are some general guidelines that can help you get the most out of those long lectures and make your note-taking more productive.

- Do your assigned reading beforehand. Even if you don't have time to study the material, at least try to read over it the night before class. Otherwise, you may have no clue as to what the professor's talking about and your notes could make absolutely no sense whatsoever. If, for example, tomorrow's lecture in biology will deal with the circulatory system, do the reading assignment and become familiar with the terms and concepts your lecturer will be using, so you don't just sit there, stupefied and obviously lost by words such as "capillaries." (Note: When you and your teacher are on grossly different wavelengths, it's bad for everybody, including your professor, who may become frustrated if it's clear you're just not getting it.)
- Get to class on time. Often, the professor will tell you the objectives and even outline the lecture at the beginning of the hour. The professor may also start out by offering to answer questions and clear up any loose ends from last time. This is your big opportunity to clarify any points you didn't understand earlier. Make the most of it.
- Look for significance. Throughout the lecture, try to figure out the bigger picture. Keep asking yourself: Why is my professor making

this point? What makes this important? Realize that a lecture is not just an explanation of a subject; it's the professor's interpretation of why that subject is important. You may not always agree with this interpretation, but you need to know what it is (for your next exam, if nothing else), and you need to get it into your notes.

- Listen for organizational cues. Some professors write out their lectures word for word; others don't write anything but speak totally off the cuff. Most, however, speak from outline notes. With a little practice, you can quickly pick up how the professor has organized the lecture material. Listen for such phrases as "the second reason for the change is," or "a third important factor is," or "still another consideration is." These lead-in lines reveal something about the professor's own thought patterns and attitudes.

- Don't try to write too much. If you find yourself taking dictation instead of taking notes, you'll probably get bogged down in details and miss something really important. Avoid trying to recapture the professor's sentences word for word; unless you've taken shorthand, he or she can probably talk faster than you can write. Are you going to school to become a stenographer? No? Then leave out the little words and phrases and focus on the big points. Jot down specific figures that seem important and summarize the main points as tersely as you can while the lecturer is presenting them.

- Be sure you understand terminology. Each subject has its own jargon. In economics, for example, some essential terms include GNP, cartel, marginal productivity, and equilibrium; it's almost a whole new language. Make sure these terms are properly defined in your notes. If the professor uses an unfamiliar term during the lecture, ask a question early for clarification.

- Don't let your notes cool off. This may be the most important tip of all. When the lecture is over, take a couple minutes to look over what you've written to be sure it makes sense. Fill in the blank spaces, complete the fragmented ideas, and—this could be key—write a one- or two-sentence summary of the main points. The piddly amount of time this takes will pay off in a major way when you're studying for the next exam.

- Cold notes—notes with isolated words or figures that mean absolutely nothing to you weeks later—aren't much help at all at

exam time. You think you'll remember, four weeks from now, what you heard today? Trust us: You won't. Take the time today and save the torment tomorrow.

Additional resources:

[Study Tips: Effective Study Habits](#)

College tips: Effective study habits are essential for achieving and maintaining a high GPA in college. More importantly, effective study habits help you to store information in long-term memory, allowing you to use the learned information in a novel setting.

<http://bruteforcestudyguide.com/Study.html>

[Brute Force Study Guide](#)

Discover The College Study Skills That Take Struggling Students To The Top Of The Class. Learn How To Study And Learn All The Skills You Need To Become An 'A' Student.

<http://bruteforcestudyguide.com/page4.html>

[Fresh Start](#)

How to begin to easily maximize your test and exam performance in exactly ONE HOUR from now!

[Reducing Test Anxiety](#)

The following eight tips will help you reduce your test anxiety and receive the grade you earned.

<http://www.bruteforcestudyguide.com/testanxiety.html>

[Better Grades in Five Days.](#)

A free, five day, test taking skills, mini-course.

<http://bruteforcestudyguide.com/pre.html>

How To Choose Classes

At some schools, the course catalog looks like a phone book. You may be thinking "information overload!" as your eyes glaze over and you begin to feel a little panicky.

If the sheer volume of possibilities is more than you can handle all at once, shut the catalog. Sit down somewhere and think about a few key things, including the following:

- The basic, common denominator list of courses that you must complete to graduate. Even if you don't know what your major is going to be, there are some classes that nearly everybody ends up taking. You'll have to take them sometime, so you might as well get started. Our advice is to get them out of the way ASAP, so you can take fun stuff your senior year—or courses that enhance your major or your employment potential.
- Your major. What's it going to be? Do you have any clues yet? This is a very big decision, and you don't have to figure it out today, this semester, or even this year. But start thinking about it.
- In this quest for a major, the course catalog is your friend. You may decide to look for classes that are prerequisites for important courses you'll want to take later. (A prerequisite means that you must have completed a certain class, such as Economics 100, before you can move ahead to related classes—Economics 200 and beyond. Call it reaching point A before you can get past point B.)
- Particularly good classes to take. Every school has them—professors whose courses are Standing Room Only. Classes you'll look back on as thought-provoking high points of your academic life. Get the scoop from upperclass students.
- Particularly bad classes to avoid like the plague. Now's as good a time as any to find out which professors are dynamic lecturers, which are drones, and which are psychos. Jed, a University of Kentucky student and a "definitely nonscientific" guy, decided to get his much-dreaded biology requirement out of the way his freshman

year—much like a patient in a doctor's office who shuts his eyes and holds his breath until the shot's over. He picked an easy-sounding course from the catalog, "Biology for Nonmajors." What a surprise he had in store for him! "First of all, it was a Tuesday-Thursday class that met at night, 7:00-8:30, and I could tell right away that it was going to be a struggle just to stay alert. Then this professor came in, and he had a real attitude. He said, 'I don't know why biology for non-majors should be any different from biology for majors.' The next thing I knew, we were looking at slides of tertiarylevel DNA, whatever that is! I freaked." The next day, he dropped the class like a hot potato. (He later found one much more to his liking, called "Human Ecology.")

· Classes that will expand your mental horizons. Live it up. Again, get to know the course catalog. Pore over it; read about everything that intrigues you even a little. Look for courses in subjects you never studied in high school. For example, here's your chance to learn something about art and architecture, even if you can't foresee any use for this knowledge in later life. Learn to play a musical instrument or ride a horse, just because you've always wanted to. What's the point of learning things you can't use to make money or further your career? A lot of goal-oriented, job-focused people want to know the answer to this question.

Let's answer it by looking at an imaginary student, Joe Tunnelvision. He wants to be a doctor; naturally, he wants to get into a good medical school, and he's well on his way. In high school, every elective course he took was in science—he even made up his own independent-study anatomy class after he had exhausted the school's scientific course repertoire.

Now, as a freshman and a molecular biology major, he doesn't want to "waste his time" on anything that won't help him reach his goal. Therefore, he has no time for art, music, languages, or literature beyond the minimal requirements. (Joe, a cynic, only signed up for intramural soccer because he knows he's supposed to appear "well rounded" when he applies to medical schools. He also did some volunteer work for the same reason—to carve another notch on the old resume. Joe's too narrowly focused to comprehend the greater benefits of those extracurricular activities. Which is his loss.)

Joe can't see four years down the road, but we can. He gets accepted at

medical school, all right, but not by one of his top three choices. Johns Hopkins, Harvard, and Stanford all turn him down, and Joe can't figure out why. It turns out that it's because of his big void in the humanities. His academic career was so heavily tilted toward science that medical school admissions officers felt he didn't have enough depth—compassion, a sense of humor, and a breadth of understanding—to become a great doctor.

There probably won't be a formal professor information service such as the one at the University of South Carolina at your school, but you can bet that there's plenty of helpful word-of-mouth information floating around out there—all you have to do is find it by asking around. If the professor in question teaches English, for example, find an English major. If this person can't give you a first-hand evaluation of the teacher, maybe he or she can at least direct you to other English majors who can.

A word of warning: Take everything you hear with a grain of salt. Are you talking to an airhead who resents having to crack a book? Or some angry person who didn't get the grade he thought he deserved and therefore has an ax to grind? If so, you may not be getting the most objective picture of the professor or the course.

It's true, forewarned is forearmed. You may, however, decide not to take somebody else's word for it. Maybe, you'll want to enroll in the course despite what someone says because it sounds interesting. To which we say: Go for it!

Don't be afraid of hard work or hard classes. If you're looking to coast through school, you're going to miss out on some demanding but very rewarding course experiences.

Additional resources:

[Preparing For College](#)

Any student that follow these steps will certainly be prepared for their first semester of college. Nothing is more important to a student's college career than getting through their first year, once they've made it that far the rest will follow. These steps to college success work for any student regardless if it's their first year or their fifth.

<http://bruteforcestudyguide.com/PreparingForCollege.html>

Ten College Tips

To most students, college is a shocking transition. As far as academics go, any hand holding that went on during your high school days is done now. Students are completely responsible for their own success or failure. And as far as your social life goes, Mom and Dad aren't around to help you make decisions about money, alcohol, or how to get along with your roommate.

Hang in there! If you didn't feel overwhelmed by your freshman year of college, you wouldn't be normal. To help you out, here are ten simple tips that will help you have a fabulous college experience.

<http://www.bruteforcestudyguide.com/tencollegehints.html>

Time Management

Why students need time management skills

Does it always feel like you are running against time? There are seemingly a lot of homework to do, projects to finish, school activities to attend to, etc. If you are always late or has tons of pending things to do, then it is time to rethink your time management strategy. Maybe what you have is not working effectively.

Below are some suggestions on how best you can manage your time and start organizing your messy and hectic life.

1. Make it a point to list things you need to do.

Priority is the keyword. Your list should not note down the most important to the least important. Having a planner can make this easier for you. After each task is finish, then go on the next. Before you know it, you have accomplished everything on your list.

Try to reward yourself after finishing your tasks. It will serve as your boost to go on and start with the next. Nothing like the anticipation of finishing a task to get a reward in return. These rewards can also serve as the diversion you need after the hard work.

2. Make every second count.

Even if you find yourself buried deep in things to do, you will notice that there are moments when you seem to be not doing anything at all. These spare times can prove vital if you want to manage your time well.

For example, in the process of resting, why not look over some notes just to familiarize yourself with them. You do not have to memorize or understand deeper, just scan through. In the process of scanning, you mind takes in the details to be recovered later on.

3. Notes should be reviewed everyday. When you look at your notes everyday, less time will be spent in studying especially when examination time comes. There will be no need to cram or memorize too many information at the shortest time.

Reviewing them regularly will make you prepared whenever your teachers decide to give you unexpected quizzes or tests. Some teachers test their students this way. They serve as a constant check up on how students are managing their subjects. The results of these quizzes give them an idea who are taking some time to read notes and who are waiting to be told to study.

4. Be a taskmaster. Figure out how much of your time are spent on studying and other school-related activities. Then check how much free time is left for you. You can budget your time better if you know how much time are spending on a particular task.

It is also important that you give yourself some free time so you will not find yourself losing your sanity altogether.

5. Do not waste time over nothing. Have you ever encountered a time when you used up all you time just thinking and driving yourself crazy with bad thoughts? When you have overcome that stage, did any good result from it?

Why not just spend these times being more productive? Even if you do not feel like doing anything demanding, you can always find a task that is less tiring. By starting on that to pass your time, you have moved a bit from the position you were in earlier.

6. Keep everything in perspective. In your goal setting stage, you may have included goals that you think you can achieve but are too difficult to do so in reality. While it is okay to set seemingly high goals, do not try to overdo them. Try to set realistic and reachable goals.

7. No one is perfect. Trying to have a perfect time management will only disappoint you in the end. Like all time management plans, these things should be open to change when the situation calls for it.

Nearly perfect goals are not that easy to achieve. And with you not being perfect also, do not expect things to turn out as you have anticipated.

After you have gotten into the feel of your time management skills, you will see that it is not really difficult maintaining them. You just have to make them work for you. This way, you will get more free time to do other things you want.

Additional resources:

Time Management and College

Here are few tips for time management at college. If you use these tips properly, you will stay time management. If you use these tips properly, you will stay ahead of the game and get your work done in time.

<http://www.bruteforcestudyguide.com/tencollegetips.html>

Brute Force Study Guide

Discover The College Study Skills That Take Struggling Students To The Top Of The Class. Learn How To Study And Learn All The Skills You Need To Become An 'A' Student.

<http://bruteforcestudyguide.com/page4.html>

Test Taking Skills

College students take tests:

- Every time class meets
- Once a week
- Once a month
- Once a semester
- Twice a semester
- All of the above
- None of the above

The answer to the question is all of the above. Although a few professors give only one big, all-or-nothing (talk about pressure!) test at the end of the semester, most give at least two. Thus, at the very minimum, you can probably expect to take a midterm exam (usually given in a regular class meeting) and a final, which is scheduled during a special exam period at the end of the term. A final exam normally lasts two or three hours; you may finish in less time, or you may still be scribbling as someone pries your blue exam book out of your cramped hands.

It's likely, however, that more than two tests (and other factors, such as papers and discussion) will contribute to your final grade. In some classes, especially science-oriented ones in which you're continually being bombarded with new terms and concepts, you may be tested once a week or more.

Which really isn't such a bad thing. In a way, getting lots of tests is better than having only one or two. For one thing, these tests tend to be "little": Each one doesn't count for a major chunk of your grade, so if you bomb one, it won't kill your overall average in the class. The sum total of these tests, however, may count for a lot—a third of your entire grade, perhaps. So if you do well on these little tests—and have a healthy grade going into the final or midterm—you might be in pretty good shape and feel much less pressured as you prepare for the big ones. Also, being tested regularly forces you to study and keep up with the material, which also is good; this way, you aren't trying to re-learn in December what you digested (and promptly forgot) way back in September.

Types of Tests

In huge lecture courses, you'll probably get "objective" tests, which deal with hard information more than ideas. In smaller discussion classes, you're much more likely to get essay exams, in which you'll be expected to organize concepts and write thoughtful responses to questions.

Objective tests typically deal with true-or-false questions, matching, multiple choice, identifications, and completions. As you've probably figured out, these tests are more convenient to grade and are often handled by machines or teaching assistants. For some students, however, these can be worse than essay tests. Particularly nightmarish are questions without an obvious answer but rather a confusing array of answer options, such as:

A

B

C

D

A, B, and D

B and C

A and C

All of the above

None of the above

A, B, and D? What kind of mind, you may wonder, dreams up such a test?

We don't know.

But we do know that this kind of test—which might cause you to have acid flashbacks to the SATs, Advanced Placement, or any other "achievement" tests you may have endured on your journey to college—throws a lot of people.

No test is a perfect instrument for measuring a student's progress; each semester, some of the most capable students—people who think clearly, write and talk well, and work hard—fail to come through exams with the good grades they genuinely deserve. Maybe they suffer from what educational psychologists call "test anxiety"—believed to affect about 25 percent of all students, some much more than others. The numbers are thought to be even higher for minority students. For whatever reason, some good students just don't "test well."

Others, however, seem to outdo themselves, to perform above their

capabilities during exams. These students may not be brilliant, but they're shrewd enough to squeeze the full mileage out of the knowledge they do possess. Also, they take everything they're given—and sometimes professors give away quite a bit. Most professors have never taken Tests and Measurements, Educational Psychology, or other courses in teaching methods and techniques. Partly as a result, they often goof up on their own exams—unintentionally dropping hints for those students clever enough to take advantage of them. Hey, a break for you!

This question, for instance, might show up on an American History exam: At the onset of World War II, the President of the United States was:

- A. Harry S Truman
- B. Dwight D. Eisenhower
- C. Franklin D. Roosevelt
- D. Herbert C. Hoover

Okay. Assume you're stumped by that one. Later in the same test, however, you find:

During the early days of World War II, President Roosevelt's Secretary of State was:

- A. Henry Wallace
- B. Cordell Hull
- C. George C. Marshall
- D. Douglas MacArthur

Well, you may not know who the Secretary of State was (Mr. Hull), but you would have to be pretty unobservant not to have noticed that the second question provides a big clue—the answer, in fact—to the first. "I've left myself open to just this kind of thing many times," admits one professor, "and I'm amazed at how few students have grabbed the freebies that have been available to them."

The take-home message here: Grab the freebies. If you really study the test, you can pick up clues that add points to your score. It may not be much, but every little bit helps. Here are some other tips:

- Don't leave anything blank. You have a shot at points if you make a stab at an answer. You get diddley squat if you leave it blank. On true-or-false questions, you have a fifty-fifty chance of getting it

right; on a multiple-choice question, your odds are usually no worse than one in four. On short-answer questions, a professor may give you a mercy point or two for at least making the effort—any effort—even if your answer is almost entirely wrong. (Warning: Some professors penalize their students for guessing. Be sure to find out what your instructor's policy is before you take the test!)

- Be ruthless with your time. Suppose you're asked to identify the term "rationalism." Each identification is worth, say, five points and should be answered briefly. But wait! It just so happens that you studied the heck out of rationalism; therefore, you're tempted to write three full pages on the subject to show off your hard-earned knowledge. Don't. It's not worth it. Let it go. You're only going to get five points, tops, no matter how much you write. So answer the question swiftly and move on. Don't tell everything you know on this question; nobody cares. The shrewdest test-takers respect the Point of Diminishing Returns and are ruthless in allocating their time. They demolish the easy stuff quickly and efficiently, saving up those precious extra minutes for the really tough questions that carry big point values.

The essay exam, some professors assert, calls for a higher order of mental processes. Instead of merely recognizing material, as in objective tests, you must also be prepared to organize it, evaluate it, argue with it, generalize and particularize from it, and relate it to other situations. If an objective test calls for knowledge, then an essay exam calls for knowledge, judgment, and skill. Your judgment will be demonstrated by how well you organize your thoughts (what you use and what you leave out), and your skill by how well you present what you know.

Additional resources:

[Standardized Test Taking Tips](#)

At some point in your life, you'll probably have to take a standardized test. No matter which standardized test you're preparing to take, these tips will help you do your best.

<http://bruteforcestudyguide.com/standardizedtests.html>

[Fresh Start](#)

How to begin to easily maximize your test and exam performance in exactly ONE HOUR from now!

Reducing Test Anxiety

The following eight tips will help you reduce your test anxiety and receive the grade you earned.

<http://www.bruteforcestudyguide.com/testanxiety.html>

Better Grades in Five Days.

A free, five day, test taking skills, mini-course.

<http://bruteforcestudyguide.com/pre.html>

College Essays

If you are among the thousands of college students that have trouble writing all those essays, research reports and other assignments, you are not alone. It is estimated that three out of four college students struggles with their research assignments, not because of the research, but the writing. Not only is it difficult to get started, many students are unsure about grammar, punctuation use and the proper use of the English language. This is one of the top secrets, not only among college students, but also people in general. It is kept secret because people believe that they were suppose to learn to write, use English and make sense of sentences in elementary school. This is true, we all learned the basics of English through our school career, but we have all slept since then as well.

Did you ever wish that you could find a good resource before tackling an English essay that is due in the morning? Not only are you in a crunch for time, but now you are struggling with getting the right words, commas and spelling on the paper. After all no one wants to hear the English professor remark about the paper sounding as if though it was written by a third grader! Would you believe it if I told you that there was such a grammar guide. One that would not only help you, but also teach you the basics and quickly! [Check out the grammar guide](#), as well as read on for other helpful tips.

Plagiarism – To Copy or Not to Copy

Here is what we say about plagiarism – DON'T DO IT! Not only will it get you a failing grade, but also can get you expelled from school. How do you go home and tell your parents, friends or better yet a potential employer? Most students think that they will never get caught and several years ago, they were probably right. Today there are a ton of spiders on the web that professors and teachers can sign into and plug your work in to see if it matches anything on the Internet. There is another database that searches the Internet and a huge database of research papers, dissertations, essays and reports that have been building for several years.

You think that you got it reworded good enough? Think again, these

search sites will also compare your paper to other sites for information not 100% copied, but similar. It will hit on the results and then bring up the exact site that you may have taken the information from. If your professor finds that your work is too similar or not cited appropriately in your paper, your toast! This is the reason that learning the appropriate manner to cite work is very important, crucial in fact. Also, isn't it just better to review the grammar guide instead of copying or rewording and taking the chance?

Use of Commas and other punctuation

One of the most common mistakes, besides misspelled words is the misuse of commas in writing. Students either use too many, not enough or all in the wrong places. This gives the professor a great red pen workout and unfortunately, your grade suffers. There are a million rules and guidelines for using commas and it is not only, where it sounds good! Another reasons to bring in a little helper when writing your paper. It never hurts to have the appropriate material to refer back to. In fact, it can save you countless hours of work, searching on the net, and your grade!

Punctuation is something that most students know well, but they are in such a hurry in their writing escapade that they make stupid mistakes. Practicing and really proofing your paper can keep this from happening. Watch for questions and end with a question mark. Emotion sentences warrant an exclamation point and so on! Refer back to your guide to make sure that your paper is correct.

Proofing

Never turn in a paper before proof reading it, ever. No matter how skilled you are as a writer, you can still make mistakes. It does not hurt to have someone else proof your paper either. They may see or catch something that you missed. When you are proofing your own paper you are likely to read across an incorrect sentence and say it the way that you meant it. Allowing others to proof your paper is also a good idea, because they can watch for sentences that are unclear or structured poorly. Fragments are another thing that others can find in your work, makes sense to you, but it may not make sense to them. They have no idea what you were trying to say, but you did when you wrote it!

Brush up on rules

It does not hurt to brush up on your rules even if you are a great writer. Even great writers make mistakes from time to time. Taking the time to refresh in a subject does not mean that you are inadequate in the subject. In fact to many, it makes you look smarter because you are willing to admit that you don't know everything. One thing that most people are not good at doing!

Additional resources:

Basic Grammar Review

College tips: Don't let yourself feel discouraged that you did not learn grammar earlier in life. The main thing to focus on is that you are learning grammar now. Learning grammar will shape anyone into a better writer, reader, and overall student.

<http://bruteforcestudyguide.com/grammar.html>

Writing An Excellent Essay

Essay writing rates up there with giving the cat a bath for most students and people for that matter. There is something about taking educational information and regurgitating the facts into an essay that can be unnerving. The language, structure, punctuation and format must be correct as well as appropriate or that red pen will walk all across that essay.

<http://bruteforcestudyguide.com/essay.html>

Rapid Research Papers - Write It Fast!

A 'Step-By-Step' system that removes all of the guesswork, waste, and frustration out of writing research papers, term papers, and college essays.

<http://bruteforcestudyguide.com/prod/rp.html>

Financing College

Every parent dreams of sending their children to college and understands that the cost is enormous. After many failed "put it away" next year attempts the bill for tuition, rent and books is sitting in front of them. Then comes the famous question of how to finance college? There are several alternatives to financing college that range from student and parent loans, scholarships or the dreaded pay as you go option. The estimated yearly college rates exceed \$20,000 per student, which can devastate any budget. Read on to learn a little more about footing the bill for a college education.

About Scholarships

Hundreds of thousands of dollars are awarded every year to students that have demonstrated above and beyond performance in a variety of areas. There are sports scholarships, academic scholarships and corporate as well as private scholarships. A scholarship is basically a gift to the student to cover books, tuition and sometimes living expenses that does not have to be paid back. This is the best way to finance college if possible. When applying for admission into the college of your choice it is always wise to visit the financial aid department to determine your options. The financial aid office will gladly help you with the necessary paperwork and also give you information about what is available. Most of the time it is as simple as applying for the scholarship money with an application. Most scholarships require a presentation or essay about your life and why you deserve the money. It is an excellent idea to write a very good essay and make sure that you have someone proofread the material before submitting. Remember you are selling yourself here and want to make them believe that you are truly the best candidate.

Some entering college find that scholarships may be available outside of the financial aid office and right under their nose. Many local organizations such as religious entities, unions, Chamber of Commerce and other private funders offer a variety of scholarships. It is a matter of searching and possibly even speaking to a high school counselor about the opportunities in your local community.

Make sure to keep an eye on the deadlines and exact instructions of the application process. If you submit after the deadline your application will be filed in the file 13 drawer (trash)! Scholarships can award anywhere from \$100 to \$100,000 as there is not a limit. Most scholarships will help pay for the majority of college expenses, but in many cases the money received will not cover all the costs of attendance. Another problem with scholarships is unfortunately not everyone qualifies for a scholarship and is left looking for other alternatives to cover expenses.

Grants

Grants are another great way to cover the many expenses of a college education. Just like scholarships, grants are "free money" awarded to the student based on income needs that do not have to be paid back. Paying back that money may not seem like a big deal now, but when you are faced with it after graduation, it can mean the difference between a new vehicle or home. The financial aid office of the college will have all the necessary paperwork to apply for need based grants.

Grants are generally issued by the Federal Government based on your income level or your parent's income level. There are income guidelines that must be met before you can be awarded grants such as the Federal Pell Grant. There are also state grants that can be obtained under the state in which your chosen college operates. Many of the state grants are based on income need, but also given to students entering into specialized fields such as mathematics, nursing and a variety of other fields. State grants may change their guidelines depending on a career shortage or other need in the respective state at the time.

There are a ton of grant opportunities. There are grants for women, minority's races, military families, undergraduate, graduate, doctoral students as well as many more.

Federal Financial Aid

The biggest resource of college aid is through the Federal Government. This money is awarded on the basis of income need and does have to be repaid. There are options on repayment that can be paid as the students attends or deferred to after graduation. Interest and other fees apply if the loan is deferred until after graduation. Applying for Federal aid involves either filling out what is called a FAFSA online or a paper application that can be obtained in the Financial Aid office. This FAFSA or Federal

Application for Federal Student Aid requires inputting information about parents or student's income, previous year's tax return, level of study and other information. This form is meant to serve as a guideline of income need and is sent to your choice of three colleges. The SAR (Student Aid Report) report that is sent to the college gives the university what is called an expected family contribution (EFC), which is the amount that you will need to pay out of pocket for your own college education. This is how the amount of financial aid is determined.

This FAFSA opens the door to knowing what types of aid that you are eligible for. It includes Subsidized and Unsubsidized loans, Federal Perkins Loans, Federal Family Education Loans and to parents only is the Federal PLUS loan. Depending on the income level of the parent or student and the level of education will determine the amount of money that can be received for financial aid.

Additional resources:

[Winning College Scholarships: Five Tips](#)

Whether you're applying for an undergraduate degree or a graduate degree, winning college scholarship money can go a long way toward helping to pay your educational expenses. Here are five tips to help you apply for and win scholarship dollars.

<http://bruteforcestudyguide.com/Scholarships.html>

[The Scholarship & Grant Guide](#) by Jerry Bohlken. Bohlken's guide holds a wealth of information on what types of scholarships are available for college students, how to apply, and how to win the scholarships that are right for you.

<http://bruteforcestudyguide.com/ScholarshipsGrant.html>

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