

## The 5 Steps to Straight A's

Good grades are extremely powerful. They are the currency of success in high school and college.

People who get good grades have more options for their future, are generally more respected, and often enjoy greater success, more trust, privileges and freedom than those who do not.

People who achieve good grades can also plan on a future in which they can receive money in terms of prizes and scholarships, earn more money in their chosen careers, work in a more comfortable environment and enjoy a wider range of career choices and opportunities than those who do not do as well in school.

However too many people believe that good grades are a result of being "smart" and that only highly intelligent people are the ones getting high marks. But this is more myth than fact.

Good grades are not necessarily a result of intelligence or even environment. Good grades are a result of discipline and habit. By having enough discipline to establish good habits, almost everyone can consistently achieve very high marks.

Do you know anybody that you *know* is not as intelligent as you but gets better grades? How do they do it? Chances are they know the steps to getting good grades. This isn't rocket science by any means, but there are some common-sense strategies that will help you get better grades, and even straight A's if you follow them.

There are five easy steps. They are habits that you can establish and if you follow them to the letter, you can get straight A's too!

Look closely at these steps and consider carefully the explanations that go with them. Post these steps in a conspicuous place like on your mirror or inside your locker.

Recruit some friends, acquaintances or family members that will help you stick with this program!

Here are the steps:

**1. Go to class on time, every day,**

If you do no more than go to class on time every day, and participate in a conscientious manner you will most likely pass the class.

**2. Do all of your own homework the day it is assigned and turn it in on time.**

If you do all of your own homework you will reinforce the material enough to where you will most likely have a functional knowledge of the subject matter.

By doing the assignment the day it is assigned you receive several benefits:

1. You will finish early and will not have to worry and stress about your assignment later.
2. You will have the material fresh in your head from the teacher's explanation and it will be easier to recall how to do it.

3. Since most teachers allow some time in class to work on the assignment, you will have the teacher there to help you if you get stuck or confused.

If you do no more than these first two steps, you will probably not receive a grade lower than a C.

3. **Pay attention in class by taking notes.**

This has two purposes:

1. When you are taking notes, you are actively listening to everything that is being said and it is unlikely that you will miss important information.
2. Taking notes keeps you busy which makes the time go by faster. No doubt you have sat in class wishing the time would hurry up and pass so that you could leave. When you are not busy the time seems to go by more slowly. But when you are busy taking notes the time seems to go by much more quickly.

If you do no more than these first three steps, you will probably not receive a grade lower than a B.

4. **Prepare for the test by teaching the concepts to someone else until they understand the material completely.**

Most people don't want to do this, but it is the difference between A's and B's or C's.

By teaching the concept you change your brain's function from passively receiving the material to actively processing and synthesizing it. When you become the teacher you cement the knowledge into your brain.

When you teach the material to another who asks questions, gets confused, etc., you make your mind process the material in many different ways.

When it is time for you to take the test yourself, you will often find that the material seems so easy and obvious, you wonder how anybody could possibly get it wrong.

You also learn the material many times faster and more efficiently than if you were to simply study your notes or the chapters of the book.

5. **Surround yourself with friends who motivate you to succeed.**

This is the MOST IMPORTANT step! There is no more powerful influence in your life than your friends. Your peer group can influence you more powerfully than your parents, your siblings, your religious leaders, your teachers, or anybody else in your life. If your friends want to do something bad, chances are you will eventually give in and do it as well. If your friends want to do something good, chances are, you will do it too. You should be *friendly* with everybody. But be very careful whom you allow into your inner circle as friends because these are the people who will have the most influence in determining your future success or failure!

So here is the list again. Post it in a place where you will see it every day. Then do everything in your power to develop these habits and you will achieve greater success than you ever thought possible.

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