

How to be a student

A lot of students tend to think that they're either "naturally good students" or they aren't. This is a total misconception. The truth is; anyone can do academically well, if they made some serious efforts for it. I'm in no way denying the natural differences between different individuals. I mean, we all know that some people have stronger memories than others, and some students pick up and interpret information faster than the average student can. However, that doesn't mean that we can't all push ourselves and do better. After all, "Hard work beats talent, when talent doesn't work hard enough"

Here are some tips that help me to maintain good grades:

1. **Always be prepared:** Procrastination is undoubtedly the biggest enemy to success. Whenever you have any college work, do it right away! Otherwise you're either going to forget about it, or it's going to pile up with other work, making your life so much harder!
2. **Time management:** One of the most important skills you must develop to succeed in anything in life, including academics, is time management. We all know at least one of those people who manage to study, work, practice some sports or enjoy other hobbies, etc. The only difference between us and those highly active and accomplished people is that they know how to use their day to the fullest, through time management.
3. **Don't be afraid to ask for help:** No one is perfect. We all have weaknesses, just like we have strengths. You must know what your exact weaknesses are, in order to overcome them. If there's anything that you're not good at, or anything that you don't understand, use office hours to ask your teachers for help. Moreover, try joining study groups. It's a very efficient method to interact with other students and share knowledge with them.
4. **Use resources provided by your college:** Instead of sticking to your handouts and notes, explore other sources of information; like the library books, as well as the E-library.
5. **Remember why you're here:** Finally, it's very important to stay motivated by reminding yourself that you're in college mainly to LEARN. Many people around the world wish for higher education but can't afford it. You are very privileged for being in college, don't take that for granted. Try your hardest to get the most out of your college experience, because you deserve it and you owe it to yourself.

Sausan Ali Al Sulaimani
English Studies Dept.