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A Guide to be a Successful College Student

Many new college students are completely disorganized when they first reach college. They feel completely lost and do not know the first thing they should do. They are overwhelmed by the sudden change from high school to college. Many students look at going to college as an incredibly difficult task. However, if these students study diligently, use creative techniques to study, and do not procrastinate; they will find that college is not as tough as it seems.

The most important thing that new college students need to do is study. Many students have never studied in high school and do not realize that they have to study if they want to make it through college. Other students do not know how to study effectively. Just looking over your notes and skimming over your book is not studying effectively. One way students study effectively is by using repetition. Students can repeat notes by rewriting them, saying them out loud to themselves, and read the material over. Flashcards are another form of studying. Flashcards are very helpful as they are compact, and can hold as much information as the student needs. These are just a few ways students can study effectively. Students must be creative and make up other ways of studying that suit them and help them the most.

Students often think that studying for four hours all at once will ensure that they will remember a subject. However, students do not realize that when they try to study for that long

their brains become less attentive, and students are not absorbing as much information as they could if they managed their study time more efficiently. A better way of studying would be to study for about an hour, and then take a break to let your brain relax before starting to study again. That way, students are not cramming too much into their brains at once. Students must also make sure they are studying actively and not passively. There is an enormous difference between the two. Passive studying is when students just look over their notes and do not actually remember anything important. Active studying is when students diligently read their texts, rewrite important points, and use techniques like flashcards and self made tests. A student who actively studies learns much more in a shorter amount of time than a student who passively studies.

Some students make bad decision when they are deciding on how to study. Many students do not realize that they cannot study when they are around their friends. Instead of studying, students just end up talking instead. Other times students choose to study in a place with too many noises and distractions, and they wind up losing their concentration. To study effectively, students need a calm quiet place by themselves. A Student needs to learn to say no to friends who want to go out and party when that student knows he or she needs to study for a test.

Many new college students do not realize that making sure you are good at organizing your time is critical to surviving in college. Most students are very bad procrastinators and put off doing assignments until right before they are due. Some never study their material and try to cram everything the day before a test. The key to making sure none of these things happen is to have a flexible schedule. While it is important to make sure a student allots enough time to each of his classes, students need to make sure that their schedule is not too rigid. Students need to leave themselves enough time in their schedule so that if something unexpected comes up, they

can change their schedule accordingly. Students also need to make sure that they choose classes that they can handle. Students should choose their classes carefully, so that they are certain that they can handle the work load that comes with each of the classes. A common mistake of new college students is that they choose too many classes and wind up being overwhelmed.

Some students do not realize that many colleges will tutor students if they need help. If students are struggling in their classes, then need to see if the college that they are attending will tutor them. And if a student's college does not tutor students then a student can ask their teachers for help. Students do not realize that teachers are here to help you and many are happy to tutor students.

Another big part of college is writing papers. Many students do not realize that being able to write good papers is essential to doing well in college. The first part of writing a paper is to do extensive research. Students need to make sure they do research from several different sources like books, magazines, and the internet. Once students have done their research they need to make sure that they write a bibliography so a teacher knows where a student got his research from. After a student does research he needs to make an outline. Students can use an outline to figure out how to organize their essay and to figure out what topics to focus on. After students write their outline they should then write their first rough draft. Students should then edit their essay and rewrite it. After that they should have someone else edit their essay so students can get a second opinion before writing their final draft. Students should not leave important papers until the day before that paper is due because students will have to rush to write the paper and will do a sloppy job.

Even though most new college students are confused when they first reach college, they do not need to look at college as such a bad place. College just looks imposing because it seems so different from high school. However, college and high school both require the student to do the same thing. Once students organize themselves, study diligently, and learn the correct way to write an essay; they will find that college is not as hard as they seem.