

Top 10 Study Skills, By Cindy & Justin Muchnick

1. **Use your short-term memory to help you in tests.** Right when a test is passed out, flip yours over and write down that hard-to-remember formula or helpful mnemonic so that you don't forget later in the test.
2. **Build great relationships with your teachers.** If you take the time to get to know them and build a positive rapport, teachers will be your greatest allies both in and out of the classroom. And someday you will be relying on them for a great college or job recommendation.
3. **Have a clean, well-lit study space that is free of distractions.** Shut down social networking, distracting music, and don't do homework on your bed but rather in a desk area conducive to good learning.
4. **Be polite in classroom discussions.** Sometimes teachers will open up the classroom discussion for a spirited debate or some sort of argumentative discourse. Even if you are arguing points in class, don't forget to be courteous and polite, because the last thing teachers want is a mean, bossy, know-it-all as a student.
5. **Say thank you to your teacher after every class.** This tip is similar to the previous one, but never underestimate the power of a simple thank you gesture. Even if it's just a, "Thank you, Mr. Smith," or, "Have a nice weekend, Mr. Jones," your teacher will certainly appreciate your friendliness.
6. **Plan ahead and map out each week/deadline.** Don't rely on a school loop or on-line calendar that your teacher posts assignments on. Be responsible for your own deadlines and both short- and long-term assignments.
7. **When you are writing a paper, check in with your teacher often to update her on your ideas and progress.** First of all, teachers will be impressed that you have your paper mapped out and organized well and they like to be part of the writing process. Moreover, checking in with your teachers is a great way to see if your essay is on the right track.
8. **If anyone happens to be visiting your class - whether it's a teacher's friend, a prospective teacher, or the superintendent - make sure to be a lively and active participant and student.** You can be certain that any classroom visitor is going to talk with your teacher after the class, and it would be great if in that conversation you were singled out as an intelligent contributor to that day's lesson.
9. **When you are studying for tests, consider forming a focused study group or finding a partner to study with.** Discussing the material out loud, whether your teaching it to a peer or asking a classmate questions, helps you learn it even better than if you were to study silently alone.
10. **Do every single extra credit opportunity.** Even if you already have a good grade in the class. Even if you'd rather be spending time with your friends. Extra credit is seriously like the teacher is handing you free money, so why wouldn't you take it?