

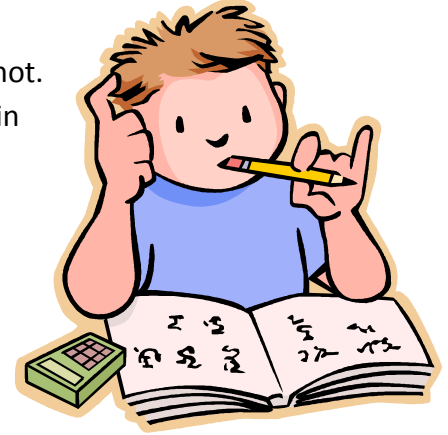
# What Is A Successful Student? And How Do I Become One?

**Introduction:** Many students **do not know** what it takes to be **successful in school**. They understand good and bad grades in a general way, and they sense that they should attend classes, but that is where their knowledge begins and ends.

**Background Information:** Most teachers know what a good student is – and is not. For one thing, a good student is **not necessarily the most intelligent** individual in the class.

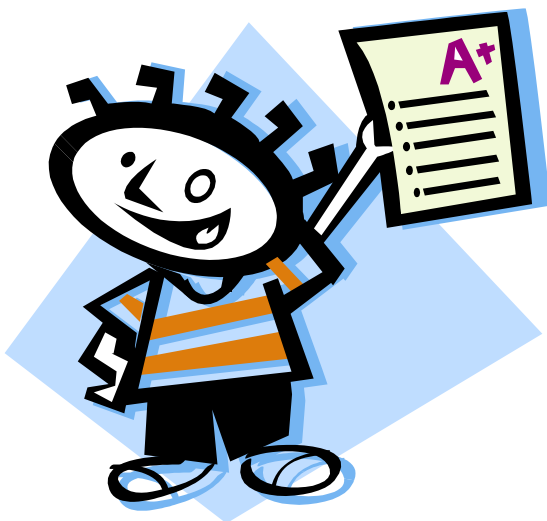
**Question:** What are the **responsibilities** of a student?

**Answer:** The student is responsible for his/her own success in the learning process. He/she should be actively involved in the learning process and should behave appropriately for a learning environment.



**Questions:** What are the characteristics of a successful student?

1. Successful students **attend** class regularly. They are **on time**. They listen and train themselves to **pay attention**. If they miss a class, they feel obligated to let the instructor know why before class begins, if possible, and their **excuses are legitimate and reasonable**. They make sure they **get all missed assignments** (by contacting the teacher or another student), and understand specifically what was covered in class. Successful **students take responsibility for themselves and their actions**.
2. Successful students turn in assignments that look **neat and sharp**. They take the time to produce a final **product that looks good**, and **reflects care and pride in their work**. Successful students are driven to **complete all their assignments**. All work and assignments are turned in, *even if some of their responses are not brilliant*.
3. Successful students demonstrate that they **care about their grades** and are willing to **work to improve them**. *They often do the optional (and frequently challenging) assignments that many students avoid*.
4. Successful students are **attentive** in class. They **DON'T talk, read, write notes, or stare out windows**. In other words, they are polite and respectful, even if they get a little bored. They, also, **participate** in class even if their attempts are a bit clumsy and difficult. They **ask questions** that the instructor knows many other students may have.



5. Successful students **see their teachers** before or after school or during free periods about *grades, comments on their papers, and upcoming tests*. Successful students go out of their way to find their teacher and **engage in meaningful conversation**. These students demonstrate to their teacher that they are **active participants in the learning process** and that they take the job of being a student **seriously**.

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## 6 Steps to becoming an EXCELLENT student

1. Like all exceptionally great students, you must **pay attention!** When a teacher is giving a lesson, take notes and if you don't understand something, raise your hand and ask questions. The more questions you ask, the smarter you'll get, believe it or not. By passing notes and talking to friends, you won't learn anything, so pay close attention!
2. **Use your class time productively.** Every minute of each class period should be used to focus on that subject. Class time is provided for you to improve your academic knowledge on that subject. Most teachers provide enough time in class to finish your assignments, don't waste the time you are given. Teach yourself to ignore distractions in order to stay on task. Don't spend your time getting in trouble by socializing, doing unrelated work, reading for pleasure, surfing the internet, or trying to make your classmates laugh.
3. **Review** your notes often (especially when you have free time – study hall).
4. **Do your homework.** Teachers give you homework for a reason. It is to review what you have learned that day. Take advantage of your free time. Do as much at school as you can – there you have a teacher in case you need help. Do your homework on the way home from school or in any spare time. Make sure not to rush on your homework, check it over, and be neat. Doing your homework is not a big deal. Remember, homework will help you develop good study habits and attitudes. Always do what is asked of you.
5. **Be prepared.** Bring everything that you need with you to class. Books, folders, pens, pencils, homework, reference tables, review sheets etc. Leaving classes to retrieve items, get water, go to the bathroom, and puts you behind in class and other students.
6. **Get organized.** Put your science papers in your science binder; know what is required of homework and when long term assignments (Earth Watches) are due.
7. **Study.** It would be a good idea to start studying a few days before a test. Make a study schedule. Always remember, use your time wisely. Study as if you are motivated for the outcome of your hard work.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Due \_\_\_\_\_

**Please discuss these characteristics with your parent / student.**

**Self Evaluation– Rate yourself (Check what describes you best – be honest)**

Successful Student Characteristics	Always	Usually	Sometimes	Rarely
A. I pay attention in class and am courteous and polite.				
B. I turn in assignments (class work, homework, projects, labs, etc.).				
C. I am quiet and on task during class time.				
D. I attend class regularly and I am on time.				
E. I participate in class activities / discussions by asking and answering questions.				
F. I schedule enough time for homework and studying.				
G. My assignments are done neatly and I am proud of what I produce.				
H. If I miss a class, I find out what I miss and make sure I understand what was covered. I make up all missed assignments, labs, quizzes, tests, etc.				
I. When I need extra help, I see my teacher.				
J. I can identify what needs to be studied in the greatest detail.				
K. I know I am responsible for my own success.				

1. Write a paragraph explaining where you were (academically) for the first semester of classes.

2. Do you feel that you could make improvements to become a more successful student? \_\_\_\_\_

(over)

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3. Which characteristics that you would like to **improve** upon? Please clarify.

4. Where **would you like to be** for the second semester? What are you **going to change** to get there?

Please **sign below** if you have discussed this information at home.

**Student** \_\_\_\_\_ **Parent** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

*Parents: Please add comments below. (Ideas – How was the conversation with your student? What did you learn about your student? How do you plan to support your child to become more successful? Etc.)*

### Sources

<http://academic.cuesta.edu/acasupp/as/201.HTM>

<http://www.wikihow.com/Become-an-Excellent-Student>

[http://www.bainbridge.edu/student/vp\\_stud/cha\\_suc.htm](http://www.bainbridge.edu/student/vp_stud/cha_suc.htm)