

# SECRETS OF STRAIGHT STUDENTS

Taken from an article by Edwin Kiester, Jr., and Sally Valente Kiester

They aren't always more intelligent, but they do work smarter. Here's how:

- 1. Set priorities.** No intrusions-study is business; business comes before recreation.
- 2. Study anywhere-or everywhere.**
  - Use exercise time to memorize vocabulary.
  - Use time before and after class to review notes.
  - Maintain the same slot of time everyday to study.
- 3. Get organized.**
  - Keep things where you can get your hands on them.
  - Use folders for daily assignments.
  - Color code files by subject for papers and notes to study exams.
- 4. Learn how to read.**
  - Improve your reading speed and comprehension.
  - Be an active reader. Continually ask questions that lead to a full understanding of the author's message.
- 5. Schedule your time.**
  - Set up a timetable dividing projects into small pieces so it isn't so overwhelming.
  - Make sure you hit the deadline. Late assignments cost you points.
- 6. Take good notes- and use them!**
  - Draw a line down the center of a notebook. Put class notes on one side and notes from the text on the other side.
  - Write a two or three sentence summary of the lesson's principle points during the last few minutes of class. Scan them before the next class.
- 7. Clean up your act.** Neat papers are likely to get higher grades than messy ones.
- 8. Speak up**
  - If you don't understand something, ask for clarification.
  - Show intellectual curiosity. Better grades come from better understanding.
- 9. Study Together.** Students who study in groups often do better than those who study alone. They discuss the homework, try different approaches and explain solutions to each other.
- 10. Test yourself.** Highlight points in your notes that you think might be test material. Make up test questions that you think might be asked and test yourself. Review what you don't answer satisfactorily.
- 11. Do more than you're asked.** If the instructor assigns five problems, do ten. If 15 pages of reading are assigned, read 20.