

A Shortcoming of High-school and a Possible Solution
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We go through twelve years of school and then possibly college and during this time we are taught a multitude of subjects, but never how to learn. This is a huge shortcoming, since we learn throughout our lives, especially during school. I propose a one semester course elective in high-school that provides effective learning strategies alongside teaching time management and a healthy work ethic.

I surveyed over 100 college students and interviewed three professors and asked them some questions about their time management skills, high-school, learning experience and what they thought were the elements of a successful student. Though 104 responses is not enough to be an accurate representation of college students, the data I collected concerned me. The majority of students self taught their time management skills, where just under half thought that school contributed to their time management skills. One third of the responses said that high-school did not prepare them for college level work and 41% said they felt as if they were learning/preforming for someone other than themselves. The proposed course plans to combat this by teaching time management, work ethic, learning strategies, effort/motivation and improving off of failure. These are imperative skills to have, since time management together with work ethic leads to greater efficiency, accomplishing tasks ahead of time and providing control on procrastination. Learning how to learn allows students to better take advantage of all of their courses and maximize their class time. Effort and motivation cannot be taught, but student's values and goal can be augmented to enhance their sense of ownership over their academic experience. Additionally, knowing how to learn from failure, to spot flaws and weaknesses and then improve is essential to self embetterment.