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****Common App Update:** The new essay prompts have been sent to college admissions consultants like myself. We are now working with rising seniors on these essays so that they are completed before summer break. Call now to sign up for essay services!

Helpful Links

For info about SAT I, II, and AP Tests go to:

www.collegeboard.com

For info about ACT test go to:

www.act.org

For info about test optional schools go to:

www.fairtest.org/university/optional

For info about financial aid go to:

www.FAFSA.ed.gov

www.fastweb.com

www.finaid.org

For college search info go to:

www.collegenavigator.gov

www.collegeprowler.com

To take a virtual tour of college campuses go to:

www.youniversitytv.com

To learn about Colleges That Change Lives go to:

www.ctcl.org

Every Expert Was Once A Beginner – Quote By Helen Hayes

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If every beginner gave up when things got tough, there would be no expert. Every time we hit a roadblock, we cannot simply throw up our hands and say, “I Quit,” you would never get past that. When you know you have failed, you would understand where you made a mistake. You can only learn, never feel discouraged by your failures and also never stop learning. Try to learn from the mistakes and be the best you can be.

If you want to succeed, never draw any conclusion from those who have achieved. They are not lucky. They may make success look easy, but no one knows how much hard work has gone into making them reach this position. Everyone starts as a beginner and takes that first step, and only by moving forward can they reach that expert level.

No one knew how to walk or talk or even eat when we were born; we all slowly learned by falling a few times or blowing air while trying to make sense of our words. We may have even cried because of our helplessness; we were raw and inexperienced.

With proper dedication, persistence, consistency, we learn to do. The same is the case with reaching your goal. It is not that difficult, and anyone can do it with a will to learn and implement.

Ask an expert about their beginner phase, and they will tell you it was never easy. But what kept them going was the more important goal they had in their mind. They always had the greed to learn more and refused to stop learning.

Keeping on Track:

Seniors: If you know where you will be attending college in the fall, congratulations! Keep those grades up and stay involved in your activities. Don't forget to send in your midyear reports...this is YOUR responsibility.

If you are still waiting to hear from a college about wait list status, continue the wait BUT consider making a Plan B. If you are safely able to do so, revisit the campuses to which you were accepted and ask deeper questions that now are on your mind. Talk with current students. Send Admissions folks any updates on important accomplishments.

If you are still awaiting word about acceptances, keep those grades up and stay active in activities.

Juniors: Start taking the SAT or the ACT (if you can do so safely) and practice ahead of time. Important test dates:

ACT: Here is the link for the latest ACT information:
<https://www.act.org>

SAT: Here is the link for the latest SAT information:
<https://pages.collegeboard.org>

If it is safe to do so, start visiting college campuses to get a better sense of what you want in a college. In the absence of in-person tours, utilize resources like: www.youvisit.com or www.youniversitytv.com.

Think about whom you want to ask to write letters of recommendation and ask them now. Popular teachers will fill up quickly.

Start working on those personal statements!**
Keep the grades up, stay involved in extra-curriculars, and take as rigorous a course load as you can successfully manage.

****We are helping students with their college admissions essays now! Schedule your appointment today.**

Every Expert Was Once A Beginner

The idea is not to call it quits no matter how tough it may look because it is only your perseverance, which will decide if you will reach your goals or not.

1. Get Out of Your Comfort Zone – Never Stop Learning

To push yourself to the next level, you need to put in the extra effort. More energy, physically, mentally, and emotionally, it may drain you.

Think about what you want to achieve. Take small steps towards your dream.

Every time you achieve a small success, it brings you closer to your goal. Becoming a master in your trade is very important.

To achieve this mastery level, it is imperative to come out of your comfort zone and walk on the unknown path. You usually find solutions when you go on the off beaten way.

2. Break It to Understand Better

Sometimes when we are stuck at a level, we need to break down our problem to understand why we are failing. Break down your own methods. If you are trying to learn something, try to learn it in smaller parts.

For example, you are learning a new craft. You cannot learn it in one day. To take each step, you need to break down those steps into simpler ones. These sub-steps can be learned and researched in-depth to find out where the problem is.

Where are you being stuck, and what can you do to overcome that? To grow, you need to study it and practice it.

Try and follow the same step again and again to gain confidence. Don't move to the next one till you have mastered the previous one.

Something to make you smile:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qnMxsGeDz90>

Pay it Forward: Do you know someone who is looking for college admissions advice? Send them this newsletter or forward us their contact information. We want to help!

Contact Us

<http://www.Academic-Ally.com>

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3. Never Blame Yourself – It Is Just A Transition From Beginner To Expert Level

Never blame yourself or your circumstances if you are not able to cross a step. While trying to learn, you might find that things are not going as you have planned.

Never quit and never blame anyone for your failures. You need to push yourself further every day with dedication and persistence.

4. Be Inspired

If you look up to someone, if you have a role model, try to find out how they have achieved expertise. You would find that they were once a beginner too, standing at the same point as you and later became an expert.

They have also reached the top by taking small steps. They might have felt sad and dejected just like you. Success will come to those who don't quit.

5. Try to Team Up With A Friend

While working alone, it gets lonely. You might not be able to think out of the loop, work with a friend, discuss with a confidante.

A colleague, someone who would help you come out of the fix.

Real work is not fun. Work in a disciplined manner, and you would be able to work out the next step.

6. Use Various Resources

While trying to do any work, you need to gather information from various resources. Never rely on just one source. This would help you understand how to proceed to keep all the angles in mind.

Keep on reading and building on the information so that you move each step closer to your goal.

7. Never Fix Any Time Frame

Fortunately, or unfortunately, some things in life cannot be bound by the time limit. While you are trying to move from beginner to expert level, each step may take a different amount of time.

Never worry or fret about how much time is being consumed. It takes a lot of time to achieve what you want; you need to be extra sure on each step.

Don't bind your success with time. However, your goal should have a general time frame!

8. Continuous Effort Is the Key – To Become An Expert In Your Field

A continuous, persistent, and dedicated effort is what will help you reach your expertise level. Perfection comes only to those who dedicate their efforts to their craft.

For those who quit in the midway are nothing but lost soldiers.

Conclusion

As Robert Collier once said, "Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out." Continue to plan and implement.

One day you would no longer be a beginner but an expert in what you love. Have a goal, plan it, implement it, and achieve it! Always remember never to stop learning.

Remember, **you don't have to know everything before you start.**