



Setting Goals for High School

Successful people don't get there by accident. They figure out a way to get from where they are to where they want to be. One of the ways that they do that is by setting goals.

Some goals are about school. Some might be about your personal life. Some have to do with character development. Or with making money. Or with getting stuff done. Or, in your case, with going to college.

In setting good goals, you might want to think about the following things:

Make Sure Your Goals Allow You to Keep Growing

If your goal doesn't move you away from where you currently are and toward where you'd like to be, then it might not be a very good goal in the first place. Good goals move you toward the life you want.

For example, if you currently have an A in English, then saying "my goal is to keep making an A in English" is indeed a good goal, but it doesn't allow you to *grow*, it simply allows you to *maintain*.

If you're currently making an A in English, a better goal would be "I want to keep making an A in English while also improving my grade in Math to an A." This allows you to maintain yourself *and* to grow.

Make Sure Your Goals are Achievable

The trick in goal-setting is setting the bar high enough so that you improve, but not so high that you can't achieve it. When you set goals, you should have a reasonable chance of achieving them.

When you make goals, success or failure should depend on your own performance, to the extent it's possible. If your goals depend on other people doing something or not doing something, your life becomes more about them and less about yourself.

Here's the bottom line: your goals should be reasonable, and they should be achieved or not achieved based on your own efforts, not someone else's. If you follow these two rules, you'll keep the growth of your life in your own hands, which is exactly where it belongs.

Know Thyself

The more you understand yourself, the more specific your goals will be. The more specific your goals, the more likely you'll do what you need to do to achieve them. Whenever you're trying to improve yourself, especially after a poor performance, try to think of the reasons that you didn't perform well in the first place.