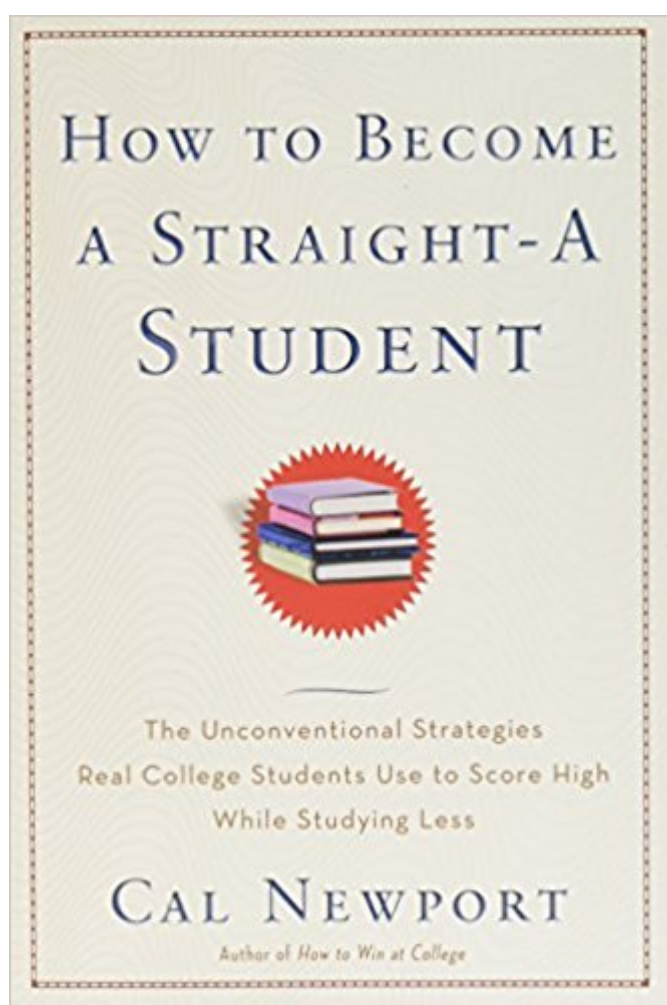


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# How To Become A Straight-A Student: The Unconventional Strategies Real College Students Use To Score High While Studying Less



## Synopsis

Looking to jumpstart your GPA? Most college students believe that straight A's can be achieved only through cramming and painful all-nighters at the library. But Cal Newport knows that real straight-A students don't study harder—they study smarter. A breakthrough approach to acing academic assignments, from quizzes and exams to essays and papers, *How to Become a Straight-A Student* reveals for the first time the proven study secrets of real straight-A students across the country and weaves them into a simple, practical system that anyone can master. You will learn how to:

- Streamline and maximize your study time
- Conquer procrastination
- Absorb the material quickly and effectively
- Know which reading assignments are critical—and which are not
- Target the paper topics that wow professors
- Provide A+ answers on exams
- Write stellar prose without the agony

A strategic blueprint for success that promises more free time, more fun, and top-tier results, *How to Become a Straight-A Student* is the only study guide written by students for students—with the insider knowledge and real-world methods to help you master the college system and rise to the top of the class.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This book delivers on its title 100 Percent. I wish I'd had a copy when I was in college—I would have had a better GPA and a better social life!"—Jason Ryan Dorsey, author of *My Reality Check Bounced!*

"A smart, concise, fun, and above all informative guide on how to ace college by being smarter about how to work . . . This book is a must-have for anyone who wants to do well at college and enjoy it too."—M. Cecilia

Gaposchkin, Assistant Dean of Faculty for PreMajor Advising, Dartmouth College

Cal Newport graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Dartmouth in 2004, where, using the strategies outlined in this book, he earned thirty-six straight A's in a row. Also the author of *How to Win at College*, he is studying for his Ph.D. in computer science at MIT.

I think this book is filled with lots of awesome tips and information for succeeding in college. Newport targets some of the most important topics for students including time management, procrastination, study techniques, and essay writing. In the book he explains how you don't have to be a total social outcast to get good grades. You can still party and have a great time with your friends and still get great grades in class and remember a lot of your material. I find myself coming back to this book a lot for essay writing because he outlays a great plan for research papers. The parts I didn't like about the book were his lack of consideration for students who work a lot of hours and don't necessarily have the time to put into the studying like he suggests and his rather brief explanation of how to properly find a study space. Overall, I think he could have put more detail when it came down to certain aspects of the book but it's a good quick read and has some really good information on note taking and paper writing. I would recommend it.

Excellent study aid with good ideas. I just took the ideas that worked for me out of it and let the other stuff go.

*How to Become A Straight A Student* is indeed how to become one. When I started community college, I was doing everything in a wrong way which I thought was the right way until I opened this book of amazing tips and tactics on how to do studying right. I followed some of the tips on how to study effectively and it works wonders for me! So far, I have A's and I have time for plays! :D

I am returning to school ten years after being in a physical class room and wanted to learn a better approach to studying and note taking as I now have more on plate than when I did as a college student with a full time job, 6 month old and a house. I picked up this book because I have learned over the years that it is better to ask those who are successful how they do it. This book was an opportunity to do that and I will try and implement the strategies as best as I can.

I read this paired with *HOW TO WIN AT COLLEGE* (also by Cal Newport) and feel fantastically

prepared for my freshman year. I am a high school senior this year. As Cal predicts, some of the results of this book are unbelievable - spending so little time studying and yet getting such good results. That said, basic psychology and common sense (not to mention anecdotal experience, as per other reviewers) prove this book to be a fantastic addition to any pre-college library. While my friends are grinding for hours in the library, I'm confident I will have the tools to spend that time sleeping. Let me highlight my favorite parts of this book: DETAILED STUDY METHODS. This book outlines almost exactly how students should start studying, with methods listed for each course. It also deals with the paper writing method, breaking a 50 page monstrosity into a doable task. Cal suggests inventing some unique methods, but provides great basics that are applicable by any student. CASE STUDIES. For some of the chapters, Cal writes case studies of how certain students implement his tips. These are very useful because they pull a little book of ideas into a tried and true college setting.

This book is the best I've found on study techniques and management approaches for two reasons: 1) The chapters are short, concisely written and to the point. There is little verbiage exploring WHY you need the book. It's pretty much assumed you know you need the help and are interested in pursuing it. 2) The suggestions are intensely practical. No airy fairy theory, no complicated processes - just sturdy, field proven techniques for making the most of the time and resources you have. I'm CLEPing and DSST-ing my way through a sizeable portion of my degree and this book is the lynch pin of my successes. It works!

I wish I had this 30 years ago. Returning to school using GI Bill. I finally found a practical and efficient study system. Highly recommended. I referenced it all semester, ended up with a 3.89 GPA with half the effort.

Let me start by saying that I am not finished with this book yet, but so far, about one third of the way in, it is great! I purchased this book to help me in my upcoming semester at college. As a working professional, I will have precious little time once classes start up, and pick up this book to help the required time most productive. Cal Newport lays out great tips and techniques to not only reduce study time, but also increase retention, understanding, and pick out the professors main point, which are sometimes less than clear. Overall I give this book five stars and highly recommend it to anyone seeking to increase their scholastic potential.

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