

NBC Today Show: Finding Homework Success

Recently, on the Today Show, Al Roker cited a survey by Public Agenda that found over 50 percent of all families regularly have loud or tearful arguments about homework.

Roker interviewed the Today Show parenting expert, Michele Borba and asked "WHY? What are some reasons parents end up having these battles?"

Borba's response, "The biggest reason is lack of knowledge of study skills!"

As a former struggling student, I have to agree with her. If only I had known how to study, be organized and manage my learning time in grade school...or middle school...or even high school...school would have been so much easier - and much more successful!

When I became a classroom teacher, I was shocked to discover that most students were struggling in some way. (And all of those years, I thought it was just me!) This discovery is exactly why I now do what I do, working to help students avoid these same, needless struggles.

But, the lack of study skills continues to be a problem through college and is one reason that 1 of every 2 students entering college will not graduate.

Conversely, a study published by Ohio State University in April, 2009 found that freshman students in academic difficulty that took a study skills class in their first quarter were 45% more likely to graduate in six years than similar students who had not taken such a course! Average-ability students who took the course were 600% more likely to complete a second year of college and had higher grade-point averages than others who had not taken the class.

Some middle and high schools around the country are beginning to embrace the importance of teaching study skills and are working to incorporate these skills into their curriculum. Most students, however, will be left to either learn skills on their own (eventually...after many struggles) or will never figure out a learning system and eventually drop out of college (maybe even high school).

You have a third option...enroll your child in a study skills class. Help them learn life-long skills for setting goals, organizing materials, managing time, and learning efficiently as early as possible!

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