

# Read and Write for Success



Reading and writing play a critical role in your teenager's current and future success. They're not only skills used in every class now, they'll also be important in college, jobs, and career. To motivate your high schooler to read and write well—and have fun doing so—follow these suggestions.

## Read for pleasure

The more often your teen reads (ideally every day), the better she will be at it. The good news: Any genre or topic counts! She might read novels, magazines, online articles, nonfiction books, textbooks, graphic novels, blogs, newspapers, college brochures, and infographics. Reading about different subjects—history, sports, personal finance, politics, travel, health) broadens her knowledge base—which is helpful in all aspects of school.

## Improve comprehension

Instead of skimming quickly through his economics or chemistry textbook, your high schooler can practice “active reading” to increase his understanding. For starters, he could jump right to the end of the chapter and read the questions designed to test his comprehension. When he sees what he's *supposed* to know after reading the chapter, he will pay closer attention as he goes. Then, before diving into the text, he

should scan headings and subheadings to find out what major ideas he'll be reading about. Finally, when he finishes each section or chapter, he might write a summary in his own words to check his comprehension. *Tip:* Have your teen keep a paper and pencil handy while reading. He can jot down unfamiliar words to look up, note confusing passages to discuss with her advisor, and write down any questions he has.

## Encourage real-world writing

Beyond schoolwork, plenty of opportunities exist for real-world writing in your teenager's day-to-day life. Here are a few to share:

- Send a letter to the editor of your local newspaper taking a stance on an issue that's important to you.
- Write reviews of books, movies, products, and post them on a shopping or entertainment website.
- Start your own blog about a hobby or an interest like robotics or paddleboarding.
- If you run a babysitting or dog-walking business, create a flyer promoting your services.
- Choose extracurricular activities that involve writing. For instance, join the school newspaper or yearbook, or submit stories or poems to the literary magazine or poetry anthology.



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