

Name:

Period: Date:

Article of the Week #2

10 Essential Skills High Schools Students Need for College Success

Instructions: COMPLETE ALL QUESTIONS AND MARGIN NOTES using the CLOSE reading strategies practiced in class. This requires reading of the article three times.

1st Read: **Skim** the article using these symbols as you read:
(☺) agree, (X) disagree, () surprising, (?) confusing.
Circle unfamiliar words.

SCORE:
CLOSE Read ____/8
Response ____/12

2nd Read: **1. Number the paragraphs.**
2. Read the article carefully and make notes in the margin.

Notes should include:

- A. Comments** that show that you **understand** the article. (Summarize or give your own personal opinion about what is said in the article.)
- B. Define** unfamiliar words or phrases. (Write definitions or use context clues to understand the words you circled in the first read.)
- C. Questions** you have about the article, or something you don't understand.
- D. Identify** the difference between **fact** and **opinion**.
- E. Observations** about how the **writer's strategies** (word choice, perspective, supporting evidence)

3rd Read: A **final quick read** noting anything you may have missed during the first two reads.
Highlight key information. This should show the article's main idea.

Your **margin notes** are part of your score for this assignment.

The assumption is that in American high school is that by the time that your student graduates from high school he/she is ready to head to college and succeed. For both students and their parents, a great deal of time, energy, anxiety, and often money is spent on the admissions process and getting in to just the right college. Less focus has been given to whether students are ready to succeed in college once they get there.

College success consists of many things, but goes well beyond high school courses taken and grades received. Students need to be academically ready for college, and high schools are working harder to understand what that means and to meet the demands required. In our last post, we discussed academic readiness for college.

But college success also includes some of the "soft skills" that may be harder for schools to teach. According to David Conley, college readiness is, "the degree to which previous educational and personal experiences have equipped [students] for the expectations and demands they will encounter in college." This is where parents can step in. Parents can help take the lead for helping students in the area of personal experiences that help to prepare them for college.

Pre-College Success Skills

1. **Self-management** – Time management is perhaps one of the most important keys to success in college. However, self-management includes all aspects of taking control of your life. Managing your own life on your own is an important step toward self-reliance and success.

*Notes on my thoughts,
reactions and questions as I
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2. **Communication** – Your student will need to sharpen both their ability to listen and to express themselves. They will need to learn to communicate effectively with other students, roommates, and faculty members.
3. **Teamwork and collaboration** – Working effectively with others is increasingly important in today’s world. Your student will be expected to complete many projects as part of a group or team. Learning to work effectively with others, and to emerge as a leader in groups will be important.
4. **Critical thinking and problem solving** – Your student will be asked to work well beyond the restatement of facts or classroom material. The ability to think critically and analytically, both in the classroom and in other aspects of her life, will be important.
5. **Study skills** – College students work more independently than many high school students and often cover much more material. The ability to organize work, read carefully, prepare for tests and plan and write papers is key.
6. **Tolerate ambiguity** – Not everything taught or learned in college is black and white, or crystal clear. Students who are better able to understand and work in a “gray” area will be less uncomfortable and will be able to understand subtleties better.
7. **Innovation and creative thinking** – Being willing and able to “think outside the box” will help your student be able to apply new approaches to all that he does. College instructors often demand that students go beyond facts or even simply understanding, and use the ideas that they learn in new ways.
8. **Ability to work independently** – Your student will be required to do larger blocks of work on their own and to keep track of their work and responsibilities. Students who are used to working on their own and keeping track of their own work will be better armed for a college learning lifestyle.
9. **Ability to follow directions** – In addition to being an innovator and creative thinker, students need to be able to follow both simple and more complex directions. Instructions about how to do an assignment may be very specific, deadlines will matter, and your student will need to be able to “play by the rules”.
10. **Be engaged** – Students who participate actively in their own education, who expect to work hard and stay involved, will not only learn more and do better in their classes, but will also have a more satisfying experience overall.

Writing Response. Complete on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Summarize this article in 20 words or less.
2. What are “soft skills” and why are they important for college readiness?
Use R.A.C.E.
3. Of the 10 Pre-College Success Skills, which one do you feel represents an area that you need to work on this year? Use R.A.C.E.