

Collier County Teen Court
Collier County Courthouse
3315 East Tamiami Trail
Suite 506

Naples, Fl 34112

Tel: 239-252-2756 Fax: 239-252-8272

Email: cfritsch@ca.cjis20.org



Or



GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL or DROP OUT; A LIFE CHOICE WORKBOOK

Read and follow the instructions on each page.

*Incomplete work will count as unsuccessful completion of your Teen Court Case
which will result in your case being brought back to court.*

MUST BE COMPLETED IN INK-- NOT PENCIL

Name: _____

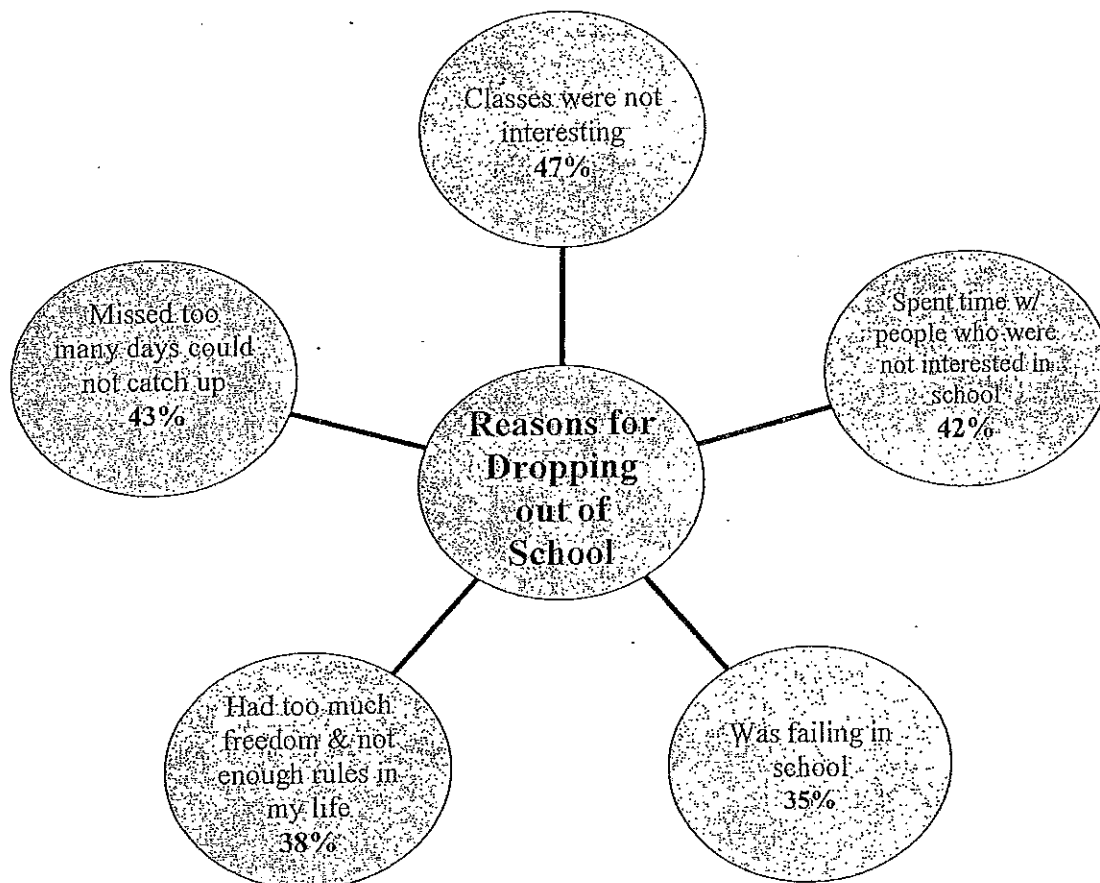
What is going on?

Let's think about it. Why is the high school graduation rate so low? Why do nearly 3 out of 10 college students need remedial classes? These are not hard questions, so why do we ask them?

A recent survey, *The Silent Epidemic: Perspectives on High School Dropouts*, asked 16 to 25-year olds why they left high school before graduating. Whether they had gone to an inner city or suburban school, the former students had some common reasons for dropping out.

What was the most common explanation? They were bored.

Here are the top 5 reasons dropouts identify as major factors for leaving school



Forty seven percent of dropouts said a major reason they quit school was that their classes weren't interesting. Now let's look at that? How many times have you been sitting in class thinking that you would rather be somewhere else? How many times have you thought how this teacher is even allowed to teach? Well the studies have shown that you are not alone. Hundreds, thousands of other students your age are thinking the same thing. Now we want to look at what are you going to do to change that? How are you going to be different?

You've had it with boring classes.... Your teacher acts more like a cop than a teacher... school's got nothing to do with real life... You need to make money. There are lots of reasons why people

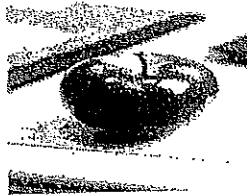
quit school. If some of these complaints sound familiar, maybe even you are thinking about it yourself.

In 2004, about 1.2 million students did not graduate from high school. Each year, almost one third of all public high school students don't make it through school. About half of all blacks, Hispanics and Native Americans don't graduate either.

Now this is NOT intended to encourage kids to drop out of school. We want you to sit down and think. Think about the importance of an education. Think about how many people in third world countries whose parents cannot afford to send them to school would die to be in your shoes right now. Think about how many people die every day trying to come to the United States to live the "American Dream".

This is the intention of this workbook – to help you see past the smoke screen and believe in yourself. It is never too late to turn your life around. It is never too late to make that change.

Now let's look at this problem seriously!



Here are some tips to help you focus in class

- 1) Sit closer to the front of the room or the teacher to help you stay focused. Sitting in the back of the classroom, you'll have the urge, not to pay attention in class, you'll doze off sometimes, and at other times, you may be more talkative (by staying focused in class, you'll be able to understand your homework a lot better, when you take it home that night).
- 2) Avoid your more talkative friends, who will probably often distract you from your work.
- 3) Participate in class discussions, by participating; you'll understand the subject matter more; therefore you'll get good grades.
- 4) Take the best notes you can, because you will need them for tests. Good notes consist of:
 - Readable penmanship
 - Descriptive details
 - Formulas (if you're in a math or science class)
 - Dates and location, of where important events happened

Most of the time, when you outline your notes, they'll be easier to understand, when you go home to study them.

1. Make a study guide for each test to get good grades.
2. Get the right amount of sleep.

How to pay attention in a dull class

Ok let's face it – we ALL have had a really boring teacher sometime in our life. However that does not mean that you still cannot learn what they are teaching. Here are some tips to help you:

- 1) Recognize that the instructor is human and wants your attention. Like a little kid, they eat up attention and will do just about anything to get it.
- 2) Position your seat in the second or third row, making sure someone is sitting directly in front of you.
- 3) Make eye contact with the teacher, nod when you understand, give quizzical looks when you don't understand. Watch the teacher repeat the info you don't quite get. Remember that they are speaking only to you because they have your attention.
- 4) You can now manipulate this teacher all over the front of the room, sort of like remote control. Stop the eye contact by moving just a little until your line of sight is blocked by the person in front. Notice how they will move to regain the eye contact. You make sure that the move is a little closer to the corner. When they get there, reward them with your eye contact, and then repeat and move them closer to the corner. Keep doing this until they are fully in the corner.
- 5) Remember while doing all this you are learning the material and having a little fun too!

You have to learn techniques to make even the most boring class – interesting. Turn a negative into a positive! Take the initiative to research the topic that the teacher is teaching and find an interesting way to remember it!

Acronyms often work.

We want you to have good study skills and realize that sometimes life is not always fun and games. Hard work in the end ALWAYS pays off!!!

You were not born to fail; you were born to succeed. One of the secrets of success is dropping the negatives and excuses.

Work hard and NEVER give up!

Profile of a Successful Student

Successful students think about the future, not just about today.

They choose their friends wisely, surrounding themselves with people who have the same goals they do. Other people's envy doesn't bother them.

Successful students will get jobs to help their families when necessary, but will keep their goals in mind and work towards them.

Successful students will postpone marriage and having children until they are well on their way to achieving their goals.

Some people come from families that make it hard to break away from poverty. But successful students think of that as a hurdle to jump over, not a brick wall.

Successful students who don't speak English as a first language will seek help from counselors and tutors; others will take ESL (English as a second language) courses at a community college. A successful student wants to speak English well.

Long before graduation day, the successful student has planned his/her next step, whether it is college, technical, or vocational training. Whatever successful students take on, they won't quit; they will work hard toward achieving their goals. They may not succeed in everything they do, but they will always try!

Success comes in cans; failure comes in cants!

JJ – A Success Story

My name is J.J. I am 17 years old. I thought it was cool to ditch school, steal cars, get high, and sell drugs to other kids. That got me lots of money and respect.

It also got me thrown in jail. I had the coolest clothes, \$100 sunglasses and \$150 sneakers. Now, I wear an orange, prison-issued jumpsuit and cheap shoes. I don't need the sunglasses because I don't get out much. I used to stay up until all hours of the night and wake up in the morning with my girl next to me. Now it is light's out at 9 PM, and I wake up in a little cement room. The window is covered by bars.

The funny thing is, this is the best thing that could have happened to me. If I didn't end up here, I probably would have ended up dead. Now I got my G.E.D and a job waiting for me when I get out in a couple of weeks. I can do something with my life. Not everybody here is planning for the future, but I am.

I found out that even though I can make big bucks dealing dope and stealing cars, there's no **FUTURE** in it. It leads to jail or an early funeral.

So, I look at it this way: I am still young and have time to make my life mean something. My older brothers weren't so lucky. One was killed. The other one is in jail for armed robbery. There's no reason at all for me to follow in their footsteps. When I get out, I'm going to make sure my little brother doesn't end up here. Ever.

Questions & Answers about Dropping Out

Q. Do dropouts quit school because their parents were dropouts?

A. Studies show that a young person is more likely to drop out of school if he has family members or close friends who have dropped out of school. But that is not a reason; it is just something that makes it a little harder to succeed in school.

Q. What about girls? Do they drop out because they are pregnant?

A. Many girls say they drop out of school because of pregnancy or marriage. But some girls say they drop out because "school is hard"

Q. Are dropouts dumb?

A. No. Dropouts are not dumb. Some do have difficulty in school – but there is help available to those who want it. Some dropouts say they're too smart to be in school. If that's the case, they should try and take advantage of the situation and try and get a college scholarship. If they don't want to go to college, they should take the GED test so they have more job opportunities.

Q. Do dropouts who go back to school have a hard time finding a job when they graduate?

A. No. Dropouts who go back and get their high school diplomas have many more job opportunities than those who don't. In the end, they have a much better chance of finding a rewarding, good paying job.

Q. What are the most effective ways of keeping students from dropping out of school?

A. (1) Encourage youth to participate in extracurricular activities. Studies show that students who are more involved at school are less likely to drop out. (2) Make sure students know where to get help if they are having difficulty with their schoolwork. (3) Have a drop out prevention counselor at every school (someone the students can speak to when they are considering becoming a dropout – and from whom they can get facts about the hardships of dropping out of school.

Q. When are people considered to be dropouts?

A. People are officially considered to be dropouts when they are not enrolled in school. Students who are enrolled but never attend school may also be considered dropouts.

Q. Which states have the highest dropout rates?

A. The states with the highest dropouts rates are: Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, and Nevada. The states with the lowest dropout rates are: North Dakota, Minnesota, Wyoming, Iowa, and Nebraska.

Taken from Arise workbook "So you are thinking of dropping out of school"

“My Dream Job”

After sitting on many panels, we often ask what do you want to do when you grow up? And often the answer is: “I want to play professional basketball, baseball or football.” So we thought we would get you the statistics on actually getting into the pros. This is not intended to discourage young people’s dreams – we just want you to look realistically at what you want to do with the rest of your life!

- Less than 5 percent high school athletes go on to become college athletes. That is five out of 100.
- .15% from High School make pro. That is less than 1%.
- Fewer than 3 percent of college athletes turn pro. In other words, for every 100 college athletes, only 3 go on to pro sports.

According to Kiplinger.com here are the Top Ten Hottest Jobs for 2007

1. Network systems and data communications analyst (54.6%)

Job description: Design, test and build networks for businesses, including their data, e-mail and voice-mail systems.

Why it's hot: More firms are looking to install or upgrade their networks to improve communication within the office and increase data accessibility.

Degree: Bachelor's degree in computer science, computer engineering or information science.

Median salary: \$60,600

2. Physician assistant (49.6%)

Job description: Work under a doctor's supervision to complete miscellaneous tasks physicians may not have time to handle, such as taking medical histories, writing prescriptions, giving patient exams and ordering lab tests.

Why it's hot: An aging population is creating a growing need for medical care. And with an increasing emphasis on keeping health-care costs low, demand is booming for physician assistants, who cost less than doctors.

Degree: Bachelor's plus a two-year physician-assistant program. Must pass a licensure exam.

Median salary: \$69,410

3. Computer applications software engineer (48.4%)

Job description: Uses computer languages to design, construct and maintain computer programs and applications software for consumers and businesses.

Why it's hot: Customized business software is a growing market.

Degree: Bachelor's in computer science or software engineering

Median salary: \$79,930

4. Computer systems software engineer (43%)

Job description: Configures, installs and maintains entire computer systems. May also set up a company's intranet and handle security issues.

Why it's hot: Businesses continue to implement new technologies to increase the efficiency of their computer systems. Concerns over security are driving organizations to invest more money in protecting their networks.

Degree: Bachelor's in computer science, computer information systems or software engineering

Median salary: \$79,740

5. Network and computer systems administrator (38.4%)

Job description: Run a business's on-site help desk for computer matters.

Why it's hot: More organizations are implementing networks and need the in-house support that comes with them.

Degree: Bachelor's, but not necessarily in a computer-related field.

Median salary: \$58,190

6. Database administrator (38.2%)

Job description: Determine the best ways to organize, store and deliver a company's data.

Why it's hot: Falling prices for computer hardware and software are driving more organizations to ramp up their computerized operations.

Degree: Bachelor's degree in computer science, information science or management information systems.

Many employers seek workers with a master's of business administration (MBA).

Median salary: \$60,650

7. Physical therapist (36.7%)

Job description: Help people suffering from injuries or disease by administering physical treatments and exercises.

Why it's hot: An aging population means more people with physical limitations and disabilities.

Degree: Bachelor's and accredited physical therapy educational program. Must pass a licensure exam.

Median salary: \$60,180

8. Medical scientist (34.1%)

Job description: Conduct biomedical research to understand causes of health problems to develop treatment and techniques to improve human health.

Why it's hot: Hot health issues such as AIDS, cancer and Alzheimer's are driving research. Medical scientists also help develop new drugs -- a hot field thanks to the aging population.

Degree: PhD in a biological science

Median salary: \$61,320

9. Occupational therapist (33.6%)

Job description: Help people with mental or physical handicaps learn daily tasks such as bathing and dressing, as well as other life skills such as using a computer and problem solving.

Why it's hot: An increasing number of seniors will need this kind of assistance in hospitals, nursing homes and their own homes. Also, a rising prevalence of special education programs for children with disabilities is driving a need for OTs in schools.

Degree: Master's required beginning in 2007. Must pass licensure exam.

Median salary: \$54,660

10. College instructor (32.2%)

Job description: Teach classes in a variety of academic and vocational subjects. Prepare lectures, grade exams and advise students.

Why it's hot: College enrollment is rising as the number of 18- to 24-year-olds increases. Also, more adults are returning to school to enhance career prospects.

Degree: Master's required for entry-level jobs. PhD required for tenure-track positions.

Median salary: \$51,800

What they can earn

Status	Per Year	Per Month
High School Graduate	\$26,952.00	\$2,246.00
High School Drop Out	\$9,888.00	\$824.00
Prison Inmate	\$672.00	\$56.00

Occupation	Per Year	Per Month
	Professional	
Computer Programmer	\$35,000.00	\$2,916.67
Engineer	\$39,100.00	\$3,258.33
Geologist (B.S)	\$55,500.00	\$4,625.00
Geologist (PhD)	\$74,652.00	\$6,221.00
Teacher, High School	\$37,800.00	\$3,150.00
	Finance	
Credit Analyst	\$58,000.00	\$4,833.33
Financial Analyst, Sr.	\$68,000.00	\$5,666.67
Vice President, Finance	\$120,000.00	\$10,000.00
	Law Enforcement	
Law Firm, Partner	\$375,900.00	\$31,325.00
Lawyer	\$49,300.00	\$4,108.33
Judge, Circuit Court	141,700.00	\$11,808.33
Police Chief	\$91,700.00	\$7,641.67
Police Officer	\$26,581.00	\$2,215.08
Probation Officer	\$36,400.00	\$3,033.33
	Medicine	
Anesthesiologist	\$240,666.00	\$20,055.50
Doctor	\$129,148.00	\$10,762.33
Neurologist	\$164,295.00	\$13,691.25
Nurse, Staff	\$36,140.00	\$3,011.67
Psychiatrist	\$132,477.00	\$11,039.75
Surgeon, General	\$216,562.00	\$18,046.83
	Sales	
Sales Executive, Top	\$122,700.00	\$10,225.00
Sales Rep.	\$39,800.00	\$3,316.67
Sales Rep., Senior	\$68,300.00	\$5,691.67
Major Account Rep.	\$71,200.00	\$5,933.33
National Account Rep.	\$85,600.00	\$7,133.33
Regional Sales Manager	\$92,300.00	\$7,691.67
	Trade	
Auto Mechanic	\$31,900.00	\$2,658.33
Carpenter	\$26,438.40	\$2,203.20
Electrician	\$28,377.60	\$2,364.80
Laborer, General	\$18,624.00	\$1,552.00
Pipe Fitter	\$27,628.80	\$2,302.40
Plumber	\$28,377.60	\$2,364.80
Welder	\$26,476.80	\$2,206.40

America's worst paying jobs

Occupation	Total Employed	Average Annual Earnings
Fast Food Cooks	522,000	13,590
Cafeteria workers	431,000	13,580
Fast Food Servers	2,206,000	13,550
Waiters	1,983,000	13,350
Casino Dealers	88,000	13,330

Job Qualifications

Match the job in the left-hand column with the correct educational requirement in the right-hand column.

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Licensed Practical Nurse | A. A 144- to 160 hour training course from a driving academy. |
| 2. Corrections Worker/Jailer | B. Associate degree from a medical vocational school or community college |
| 3. Truck Driver | C. Bachelor's degree in education and sometimes a master's degree in education |
| 4. Auto Mechanic | D. No formal training required |
| 5. Electrician or Carpenter | E. Two-year certificate program at an automotive vocational school or community college |
| 6. Social Worker | F. Associate degree in computers from a community college or vocational school |
| 7. Computer Programmer | G. An 11-month nursing program |
| 8. Painter | H. Either a bachelor's or master's degree in social work called an BSW/MSW |
| 9. Special Education Teacher | I. A 10-week certificate program from a law enforcement academy |
| 10. Dental Hygienist | J. One-year vocational certificate from a community college or vocational/technical center; or a four year construction apprenticeship program |

Older and Wiser

Answer the following questions to better understand where you want to be 10 years from now.

1. **Where do you see yourself in 10 years as far as relationships are concerned?**
Married Single Dating Living with someone
2. **If you see yourself in a relationship, what qualities do you want your partner to have?**
What kind of education?

3. **Do you think you will have children (or additional children)? How many?**

4. **What will your educational background be like?**

5. **What kind of job will you have?**

6. **What kind of annual salary will you earn?**

7. **What kind of car will you drive?**

Ok, now taking that all into consideration let's look at your current grades:

What is your current GPA? _____

How many classes have you failed this year? _____

How many disciplinary referrals have you gotten this year? _____

What could you have done differently this year? If you are failing, why are you failing?

Have you sought help? If no, why not?

What do your parents think about your grades?

What are you going to do to change?

Would you like to have some help from us?

What kind of grades are your friends receiving? Are they failing as well?

Pretend that we have a magic eraser that can help you start from scratch academically. What do you think you could do to make things better?

How many hours do you study each night? _____

How much homework do you complete each night _____

How many hours do you watch TV each night? _____

How many hours do you play on the computer each night? _____

Now for the next week, we want you to add 2 hours of studying (any subject) each night. Your parents have to sign off on your studying daily. While 2 hours may seem like a lifetime to you, in reality it isn't that much time.

What is the first thing that is needed when building a house? _____

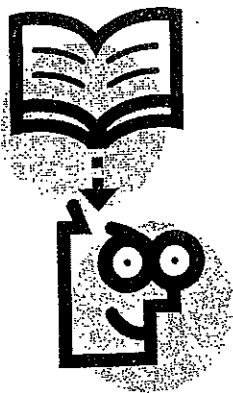
If you said foundation that is correct. **High school is your foundation.** It can open up so many doors and allow you to build several floors in your home. However, if you have no foundation – your home will sink!

Day	How many hours	Parent signature
Sunday		
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		
Saturday		

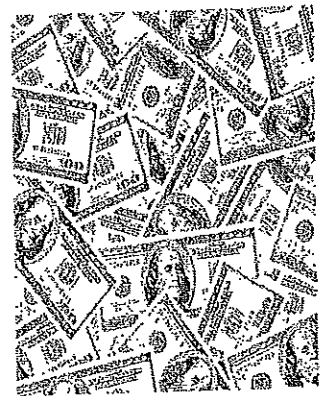
Monthly Cost of Living for the Average Single Person

(This is the bare minimum expenses, and can vary depending on where you live)

Rent (small apartment/shared house)	\$ 650
Groceries	\$ 250
Utilities (gas, electric, water, phone, cable)	\$ 210
Transportation	\$ 200
Car payments	\$ 200
Car insurance	\$ 100
Gas	\$ 25
Car repairs	\$ 120
Insurance (medical – optional)	\$ 100
Entertainment, restaurants	\$ 100
Personal health & grooming	\$ 25
Clothes	\$ 1980
Monthly Total	<u>\$ 23,760</u>
Yearly Total	<u>\$ 23,760</u>



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The next several exercises are designed to get you thinking about what you are going to do with the rest of your life if you don't get your studies together.

Minimum Wage Budget Plan

Florida 2018

\$8.25 per hour

\$330.00 per 40 hour week

\$1,430.00 per month

\$17,160.00 annual income

(These wages are **BEFORE** taxes)

Create a budget (similar to the budget on the previous page) using these figures. You must do research and attach it to the workbook in the back. Get pricing on rent, utilities, cars, car insurance, groceries, etc and put the figures on the worksheet below. Remember this is according to the above pay scale. Ask your parents, siblings for information that you are not sure about. Go on utility websites (Comcast, FPL, etc) to see how much their basic service is.

Rent (small apartment/shared house) \$ _____

Groceries \$ _____

Utilities (gas, electric, water, phone, cable) \$ _____

Transportation: \$ _____

Car Payment \$ _____

Gas \$ _____

Car Repairs \$ _____

Insurance (medical-optional) \$ _____

Entertainment, restaurants	\$ _____
Personal Health & grooming	\$ _____
Clothes	\$ _____
<u>Monthly Total</u>	\$ _____
<u>Yearly Total</u>	\$ _____

So how was that? Did you have to sacrifice in certain areas to be able to afford things in others?

Now do the exact same exercise using the average salary of a high school graduate:

\$35,256.00 a year
\$2,938.00 a month
\$678.00 a week

Rent (small apartment/shared house)	\$ _____
Groceries	\$ _____
Utilities (gas, electric, water, phone, cable)	\$ _____
Transportation:	
Car Payment	\$ _____
Gas	\$ _____
Car Repairs	\$ _____
Insurance (medical-optional)	\$ _____
Entertainment, restaurants	\$ _____
Personal Health & grooming	\$ _____
Clothes	\$ _____
<u>Monthly Total</u>	\$ _____
<u>Yearly Total</u>	\$ _____

With all of this being said, we hope that you think long and hard about staying in high school and making good grades so your foundation is nice and sturdy.

Budget Research

Please look in the paper or internet and print out sample prices for your budget plan and attach them here.

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