

BEING UNPREPARED FOR CLASS

WHAT TO DO

This is a Detention Learning Packet. It consists of three pages of text and a Response sheet that asks questions about what you did, why you did it, and what goals you must set to avoid the same problem in the future. Read the three pages and try to remember what you read. Then read the Response Sheet and write answers to the questions.

WHAT YOU DID AND WHY IT WAS WRONG

You are serving a detention because you were unprepared for class. You were given an assignment and you didn't do it. By not doing your work, you came to class unprepared. How can you expect to learn if you don't do the work? It's unfair to yourself and to your classmates to be unprepared. It has a negative effect on the learning process.

STORIES ABOUT BEING UNPREPARED FOR CLASS

LARRY AND THE LONG WALK HOME

Larry hates to do his homework. When he gets out of school, he usually walks home with his friends. On the way, they will stop for a sandwich or walk through the park, or play baseball or football. By the time Larry finally gets home, the afternoon is over. He will usually delay starting his homework until after supper. But then there are TV shows that he wants to watch. Finally, a few minutes before bedtime, Larry opens his notebook and looks at the long list of things to do. He knows that he can't do all the items on the list, so he doesn't do anything. The next day, he is unprepared for class.

BART AND THE BORROWED TIME

Bart is busy doing everything but preparing for class. He belongs to several clubs, is the lead in the school play, is a member of the band, and is on the debating team. Because he tries to do too much, he never has time to do anything well. He borrows time from his studies for too many extracurricular activities. He is behind in everything. By the end of the day, he is too exhausted to do a good job on his homework.

BETTY AND THE BAKERY

Betty has a part-time job after school. Her parents own a small bakery shop. She doesn't have to, but she helps with the baking in the afternoons. She likes talking to the people who come into the shop, and she enjoys being with her parents. Betty goes home when the shop closes at 6:00 pm. She tries to prepare for class after dinner, when her mother and father go back to the shop to bake the rolls and muffins for morning deliveries. But Betty likes to have people around her. When she is alone, she finds it hard to concentrate, and has trouble doing her assignments. Betty usually turns the TV or the stereo on to keep her company, but it keeps her from concentrating. She is rarely prepared for class.

WHY PEOPLE ARE UNPREPARED FOR CLASS

There are many reasons students don't prepare for class. Sometimes, emergencies prevent you from studying. But more often than not, people are unprepared for class simply because they decided to do something besides study.

Larry doesn't like to sit down, look at the assignment sheet, plan his time, and do his assignments. He gets involved in other things so he won't have time to prepare for class. Larry doesn't know that he is establishing a pattern of being irresponsible. He is getting into the habit of putting things off. Are you?

Bart is an activities addict. He likes to work with people, to organize activities, to talk and to hear what others have to say. He is not the type

of person who can sit and think through a project or assignment. He would rather be doing something than learning something. Bart is action-oriented. Studying seems to be a distraction for him. Everything seems more important than reading an assignment or writing a report.

Betty likes to be around other people. She is very sociable, and is uncomfortable when she is alone. Her parents don't make her work in their bakery--she wants to go there in the afternoon instead of studying her assignments. Unlike some people, Betty finds it easier to study when she is not alone. She finds it hard to concentrate when nobody is around.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DON'T PREPARE

When you are unprepared for class, you miss the very reason you came to school: you miss out on learning. Each class you take covers a subject you need to know more about. If you don't prepare for class, you won't know what is being discussed in class. Further, you won't be able to make a contribution to class discussion. Each time you fail to prepare for class, you fall further behind. Is this what you really want? Being irresponsible has never helped anyone.

WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO IN THE FUTURE

Think for a minute about the benefits of school. School prepares people for work and life in general. The experiences you have in school set the stage for your life. The things you learn in school help you survive in the world. If you don't learn essential information in school, you may never learn what you need.

School is not just a set of classes and subjects. It helps you understand yourself and the world around you. Have you ever heard an adult say, "I wish I had done a better job when I was a student"? Most adults wish they had taken more advantage of their time in school.

How do you stop being unprepared for class? First, try to find the reasons why you are unprepared. Are you trying to do too many things? Do you have scheduling problems? Have you lost interest in school? When you have identified what is causing the problem, you can start setting some realistic goals

that will help you to be better prepared. The questions in the Response sheets will help you begin making some positive changes.

STUDENT RESPONSE PACKET # 4.1
BEING UNPREPARED FOR CLASS

NAME _____

DATE _____

GRADE __ **HOMEROOM** _____

WHAT TO DO

Below are some questions about what you have read. These questions will help you learn why what you did was wrong and how you can avoid such problems in the future. Your teacher, a counselor, the principal, or your parents may read your answers. Your answers will not be graded.

Write your answers in the spaces below the questions. If there is not enough room, write on the backs of these sheets. Be neat, spell correctly, use good grammar, and write in complete sentences. If you don't understand what you are supposed to do, ask your detention supervisor.

When you finish, give the Learning Packet and your Response sheets to the detention supervisor and return to your desk. The supervisor will tell you when to leave.

1. You were unprepared for class. Why? Be honest!

2. In what other classes have you been unprepared? Why is establishing a habit of being unprepared not a good habit?

3. How would you feel if your teacher came unprepared to teach class?
Why?

4. You have read three stories about people who were unprepared for class.
Explain why Larry was unprepared.

5. What was Bart's reason for coming to class unprepared?

6. What about Betty? Why did she come unprepared for class?

7. In your own words explain why being unprepared creates problems for
you and others.

8. Write two goals that will help you avoid being unprepared for class.

STUDENT RESPONSE PACKET # 4.2
BEING UNPREPARED FOR CLASS

NAME _____

DATE _____

GRADE __ **HOMEROOM** _____

WHAT TO DO

Below are some questions about what you have read. These questions will help you learn why what you did was wrong and how you can avoid such problems in the future. Your teacher, a counselor, the principal, or your parents may read your answers. Your answers will not be graded.

Write your answers in the spaces below the questions. If there is not enough room, write on the backs of these sheets. Be neat, spell correctly, use good grammar, and write in complete sentences. If you don't understand what you are supposed to do, ask your detention supervisor.

When you finish, give the Learning Packet and your Response sheets to the detention supervisor and return to your desk. The supervisor will tell you when to leave.

1. You were unprepared for class again. Explain why.

2. Explain why getting into the habit of being unprepared is something to avoid.

3. List the classes for which you have trouble preparing. Put a star by the one that causes you the most trouble.

4. Do you have any special problems or circumstances that make it hard for you to prepare for class?

5. You have read three stories about people who were unprepared for class. Write a goal that will help Larry be prepared for class.

6. What goal would you write for Bart so he could be better prepared for class?

7. What advice would you give Betty so she would be better prepared for class?

8. Write two goals that will help you become better prepared for class. Keep in mind why you didn't achieve your last goals.