



The College-Ready Reading Quiz

*Does your son or daughter
have the reading skills
to make it in college?*

Is your child prepared to succeed in college?

The Dropout Dilemma

- 41% of students who start college do not earn a degree within six years.¹
- 54% of all college students report feeling overwhelming anxiety.²
- The Top 2 Reasons Why Students Drop Out:
 1. They are not prepared for the rigors of academic work.
 2. The inability to cope with the competing demands of study, family, and a job.³

In other words, students don't have the study skills they need to handle the level of work in college, and this causes a huge amount of stress, overwhelm, and burnout – which can lead to dropping out.

Why are students not prepared for college reading?

The way students are taught to read in the U.S. has not changed much since public schools started in the early 1800's. Educators still debate the best way to teach students *how* to read (“whole language” vs. “phonics”), yet 70% of high school students in the U.S. need help with remedial reading skills.⁵



Schools invest a great amount of time ensuring that students learn the “common core” standards and how to pass high stakes tests. Little or no time is left for teaching students reading skills and study habits that are necessary for success in college.

But my child is an honor student!

Your son or daughter may work hard in high school to maintain top grades, or earning A's may come easily. Either way, after working with more than 10,000 college students, I've discovered that even the smartest and hardest working high school students are shocked at how much more work and effort was required when they got to college.

Most top high school students arrive at college with a sense of excitement and optimism. However, this soon turns into stress and overwhelm as they fall behind in their reading and studying within the first *few weeks* of the semester.

No high school student starts college thinking they won't make it, but with one out of every three dropping out after their freshman year⁴, it is clear that something is wrong.

What is the cost of not having a college degree?

While there can be huge social and emotional consequences for students who drop out of college (not to mention your stress of having an adult child move back in with you), let's look at it from a purely financial perspective. Below are the median incomes earned by high school graduates and those with a Bachelor's degree (over all majors).

- Bachelor's degree: \$48,500
- High school diploma: \$30,000⁶

Almost everyone would agree that earning \$18,500 more each year would be helpful in reaching your life's goals. Over a 20-year career that adds up to \$370,000.

The four-year myth: the cost of not graduating on time

In the U.S., for all "four-year" colleges, the average on-time graduation rate for *full-time* students is 28%.⁷ Most students take six years to graduate from a four-year program.

The average tuition, fees, room and board for one year at public, in state, 4-year colleges in 2015-2016 is \$19,548.⁸

Every extra year a student stays in college costs not only the expenses of attending, but the income and opportunity that is lost by not having a better paying job in their field. Furthermore, students who borrow money to attend school end up with significantly larger debt when they don't graduate on time. For example, at the University of Texas at Austin, a student who borrows money to attend school will increase their debt by nearly 60% by staying in school for six years instead of four.⁹

What can you do now?

The first step is to find out more about your son or daughter's reading habits. Maybe he or she already has what it takes to make it in college. If not, you can take steps now to upgrade your child's reading and study skills before it's too late.

The College-Ready Reading Quiz helps high school students find out how ready they are to handle the volume of reading in college.



You only need to invest about 10-12 minutes with your son or daughter to sit down and answer these questions. It will be time wisely spent.

The College-Ready Reading Quiz

1. Read each statement. If it is true for you always, usually, or sometimes, check "Yes."
If it happens rarely or never, check "No." Complete all 20 statements.

Yes	No	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. I lose focus or think about other things when I read.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. I accidentally read the same line more than once.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. I move my lips or say the words out loud when I read.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. I lose my place while reading.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5. I read the sections of textbook chapters in order from beginning to end.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Out of habit, I read material more than once to understand or remember it.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7. I find myself staring at the page or spacing out while reading.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8. After reading a page or more from a textbook, I forget what I just read.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	9. I have a voice inside my head that pronounces the words as I read.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10. I procrastinate when I need to read or study.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	11. I fall behind or don't finish my reading assignments.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	12. I stay up late to cram the night before tests.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	13. I spend so much time reading and studying that I have little or no free time to do other things that I really enjoy.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	14. I have missed points on a test because I couldn't remember the information even though I did study.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	15. When reading in class, most students usually finish before I do.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	16. Reading feels like a chore.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	17. I feel stressed out or frustrated when I read or study.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	18. I feel bored when I read.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	19. I feel tired or fall asleep when I read.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	20. I feel anxious, overwhelmed, or burned out about school, reading, or my grades.

2. Count the total number of "No" answers and write that number in the space provided below.
3. Multiply your number of "No" answers by 5 to get your college-ready reading score.

_____ x 5 = _____ % college-ready
(number of "No's") (your score)

Results & the Best Next Step

Interpreting your results

While no single test can completely predict your son or daughter's ability to succeed academically, we have observed a strong correlation between good reading habits and students who do very well in college.

- 60% and lower: definitely not ready for college reading
- 65 - 75%: Average: not fully ready for college reading
- 80 – 85%: Good, with room for improvement
- 90 – 100%: Excellent!

If your child scored lower than 90% on the Reading Habits quiz, he or she is not using his full potential as a reader, and is likely to have difficulty keeping up with college reading assignments.

If your son or daughter is in high school and planning to attend college, now is the time to help them prepare. After teaching reading and study skills to thousands of college students since 1995, I can't tell you how many times I've heard them lament, "I wish I would have learned this when I was in high school!"

How to prepare for reading success in college

The "Effective Reading Course" is a *proven* 6-Step system that will prepare your son or daughter to handle the volume and intensity of college reading. There are six key steps in the program:

1. **Measure Your Reading Skills** (we test speed and comprehension before and after the program in standardized material – specific, measurable results are *guaranteed*).
2. **Identify the Issues** – what causes you to read slowly, lose your focus, and forget what you read, and more importantly, what can you do about it?
3. **Turbocharge Your Reading Speed** – how to read 2-5 times faster with great comprehension
4. **Laser-Beam Your Focus** – get more done in less time
5. **Remember What You Read** – how to make brain-friendly notes that virtually guarantee A's
6. **Upgrade Your Comprehension** – Six keys to unlock your understanding

"My reading speed went from 288 words per minute with 75% comprehension to 890 words per minute with 95% comprehension."
- John Roeder, Business, University of Texas at Austin

Students who complete the program are *guaranteed* to improve their reading skills, but they also report other benefits such as:

- Increased confidence
- Less stress
- Free time to pursue extracurricular activities
- Wanting to read for fun
- Skills that will help in their career



Here are a few quotes from students who have completed the program:

“I used to hate school and studying, now I like it. It’s unbelievable but I’m excited about learning again – thanks a ton!” - *Megan Fain, Trinity University*

“The skills I have learned in this class will benefit me for the rest of my life.”
- *Nick Cabrera, Political Science, Arizona State*

“Extremely beneficial, crucial and worth the money.”
- *Omar Elazhary, Mechanical Engineering, Colorado State University*

How does it work?

The program is delivered online with easy-to-follow lessons that guide the student every step of the way. Each lesson guides the student with hands-on practical skills and exercises. Between lessons, students practice in their own reading material. VIP group coaching is available for a limited number of students.

To find out if your son or daughter is a good fit for the program, visit the website EffectiveReading.com to request a complimentary 1-hour Strategy Session. We will discuss your child’s results with the quiz, other issues or concerns with reading, studying or school, and his or her goals. At the end of the call, whether we end up working together or not, you will be clear about your best next step to help your son or daughter achieve success in college.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Richter', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

John Richter
Conquer College Reading Specialist

End Notes

1. U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. (2015). *The Condition of Education 2015* (NCES 2015-144), [Institutional Retention and Graduation Rates for Undergraduate Students](#).
2. From the semiannual survey conducted by the American College Health Association and reported in "Psychology Today" Oct., 2015
3. Research from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, "Pathways to Prosperity," 2011.
4. "National Collegiate Retention and Persistence-to-Degree Rates," ACT Institutional Data File, 2015
5. "High School Literacy: A Quick Stats fact Sheet," <http://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED507600.pdf>.
6. Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Earnings and unemployment rates by educational attainment, 2014."
7. "The Four Year Myth," by "Complete College America.
8. "Average Published Undergraduate Charges by Sector, 2015-16," <http://trends.collegeboard.org/college-pricing/figures-tables/average-published-undergraduate-charges-sector-2015-16>
9. [UT Austin Office of Student Financial Service, 2013.](#)