

# **Avoid the following mistakes Freshman Year:**

- 1. Believing your freshman year doesn't really count and you can improve your grades later.** If you slack off in your first year, it will be really hard to catch up later.
- 2. Sacrificing your grades for your social life.** You should definitely try to have a rich social life in high school, but that doesn't mean you can't get good grades too.
- 3. Skipping classes and missing homework.** Teachers share important information during class, and listening to their lectures helps you to better understand the subject.
- 4. Failing to make up missed assignments.** Some teachers are very reasonable in negotiating extra time for you to complete your homework, so just because it's late doesn't mean you shouldn't do it.
- 5. Assuming you're not doing well because the teacher "just doesn't like you."** Your future is your responsibility, and you shouldn't let personal feelings interfere in your path to get the degree or career you want. You won't get along with everyone in life, but that's not an excuse to slack off or give up.
- 6. Not signing up for extracurricular activities.** Many students say they don't have time for extracurriculars, but keep in mind that these activities can help both your social life and your college applications.
- 7. Deciding that high school is about dances, partying and sports, not classes.** Big mistake. Even though social activities are an important part of high school life, they shouldn't be your main focus during the school day. Your focus in high school should be learning, preparing for college by taking challenging classes and preparing yourself for college majors and degrees.
- 8. Not asking for help.** If you're having problems in school, there are many people out there who can help you: parents, teachers, friends and your school counselor are all good sources for advice and assistance.
- 9. Not asking questions in class.** They say the only stupid question is one that isn't asked. You're not going to have all the answers, and you're not going to get them unless you are willing to ask questions.
- 10. Taking classes just because your friends are taking them.** It can be fun to be in all the same classes as your friends, but it can also be a distraction. Also, your friends may have different interests, academic skills and college goals than you do.