

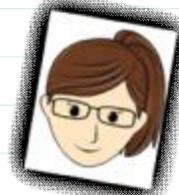
The Thinking Cap

Winter 2011

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Alexandra in Tutorland

alexandra's musings



Mid-year check up

The second half of the school year, after winter break and sleeping in late, is often jam-packed with information and very fast paced. With the end of the year around the corner, there seems to be a rush to get through unfinished chapters and prepare for finals and standardized tests. It is easy to lose sight of goals set at the start of the school year and to hard maintain good study habits. It is a good idea to schedule a mid-year check up. Here are some things you can do before jumping into the second half of the school year.

- Evaluate your goals – in September you set goals for yourself. You may have written these goals down, discussed them with a parent, or just spent some time thinking about what you wanted to accomplish this school year. Now is the time to check over the original list and see how things have been going. Have you made the changes you set out to make? Is there still room for improvement?
- Recalibrate the process – think about the ways in which you did not meet your goals. Consider specific actions that you can take moving forward to meet your expectations. If you're feeling stuck and don't know how to make adjustments to reach your goals, plan to meet with someone, like a teacher, to brainstorm ways that you can work toward reaching your targets.
- Plan ahead – don't let finals sneak up on you. Grab a calendar and think about what is coming up in the spring. Consider sports, plays, and other extracurricular activities. Plan out your schedule so you have enough time to study and get all of your tasks done.

With the fresh new year, spend some time "checking-in" with yourself so that you're ready to finish the year on a high note.

Send your questions to:

info@thinkingcapstutoring.com

Sense and Sensibility
you ask, we answer

Question: My school hasn't said anything about the SAT IIs, but a lot of my friends are planning on taking tests in the spring. Should I take an SAT II?

Answer: SAT II or SAT Subject Exams test a student's knowledge of a particular subject area. The College Board administers the tests in the following areas of study: history, foreign language, literature, science, and math. Students should consider taking an SAT II at the end of the corresponding course. For example, if you are taking chemistry in high school and feel comfortable with the material then you can think about taking the SAT Chemistry test. Of course, most students will need to do some review and preparation for SAT IIs. Make sure that if you're feeling confident with a particular upper level class, you plan on reviewing and taking an SAT II.

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Great Expectations

ü Congratulations to all of our ISEE/SSAT and SAT takers!

ü Pick up your copy of Alexandra's [Tutor in a Book](#)

ü Check out Thinking Caps in the [New York Times](#)

ü [Follow us](#) on Twitter

ü Become a Thinking Caps [Facebook fan](#) and get weekly study tips

ü Join our book club: [PageTurners](#)

Have questions?

[email us](#)

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Much Ado About Learning

our tips and helpful hints

Exams are just around the corner. We're sharing our awesome study strategies.

I commit myself to a plan for long-term studying and stick to it no matter how pressing the night's work is. I know that if I follow my plan, I'll be ready for the test.

—Meredith Fear

When I study I like to read the relevant chapters covered in class and create an outline for each chapter. This not only helps me memorize the major topics, but also helps me see the common themes covered through the chapters.

—Mohit Bahel

For history and especially art history classes, I always found that making a big, giant timeline helped. I would create it very carefully on a nice piece of poster board, using a ruler, color coded pens, and my best handwriting. It feels more like doing a craft project than studying, but the process of manually writing out all the titles of art works (or historical events), artists, dates, etc. really helps them stick in your brain!

—Caroline Nuckolls

Get organized: often times going through old worksheets and notes to put them in order will help me review, as well as allowing all my future study strategies to unfold much more smoothly.

—Laura Nocka

Once I know that I understand a concept, I really work hard to feel secure in my knowledge of the material. I'll practice or quiz myself over and over again. It's amazing what a little bit of confidence can do on a test!

—Johanna Lou



A Tale of One Tutor

lessons we learned along the way

Happy Holidays!

Following passions and dreams.

As soon as you enter high school you start to hear parents, teachers, and classmates talking about college applications. It seems like everyone needs to be a varsity athlete, a lead in the school play, and a straight 'A' student all at the same time!

But in a world where it is increasingly impossible to fit in studying, extracurriculars, a social life, and sleep, you eventually meet your limits. I first discovered mine in the 10th grade when suddenly I needed 9 hours of sleep a night, minimum! Whereas I used to be able to cut corners on sleep, I was now falling asleep in classes and missing the bus in the morning.

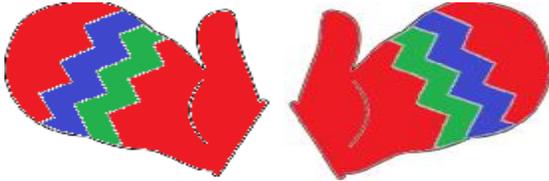
For the first time in my life I started to realize *I couldn't do everything!* I had to cut back. So what went from my schedule? What ended up being truly important to me were those activities that I started doing just because they were fun. The improv comedy club that I started freshman year with several best friends. Choir, because I truly loved to sing. Boy Scouts, because I loved the outdoors.

It turned out that it was the passion and the enthusiasm that I put into those activities that made me an interesting applicant to colleges, and that led those pursuits to become a part of my everyday life. I still perform improv in my free time, I sing in choirs all over New York, and I return to my college every year to lead camping trips for incoming freshman.



Although you would have had a hard time in high school convincing me that the effort I put into choir was at all worth the same weight as the effort I put into studying for AP physics, I can safely say that I will probably never be a physicist.

—David Moroney



The (academic) Odyssey

review of education news

Thinking Caps Tutoring gears up to open a branch in Austin, TX. Rebecca Putter, director of TCT Austin, gives us a sneak peak.

level of personalized education to a new geographic area. An academic specialist will evaluate the needs of each student and individually matches him/her with a tutor who shares similar interests and passions. As always, our goal will be to help students become independent and confident learners.

Austin to attend law school, I realized that I missed working with kids and saw a need for TCT's services in the area. I wanted to share the innovative educational philosophy of TCT with a new population of students. My strong belief in the academic principles and values of TCT fueled my drive to expand the company to a new city.

TC: What's the plan for Thinking Caps Austin?

Rebecca: The Austin location will begin offering services in January 2011. We will work with middle and high school students on study skills, subject support, and test prep.

TC: How did you become involved in TCT Austin?

Rebecca: I started with Thinking Caps in December 2006 and worked with many of students over the years. I learned about different approaches to teaching and how to work with various types of learners. I was also fascinated with the business side of Thinking Caps and wanted to become more involved with the company. After moving to

TC: What inspired you to work with students?

Rebecca: I have always enjoyed helping other students learn through creative and innovative means. As a young child I created learning games with my mom and greatly enjoyed sharing my academic zeal with others. In high school and college I participated in various after-school tutoring programs to help kids who struggled academically.

TC: What methods and approaches will be used in Austin?

Rebecca: The principles of teaching developed by Thinking Caps will be at the foundation of TCT Austin. We will bring the same



Cat's Cradle

tantalizing brain ticklers

A good laugh to warm you up...



Courtesy of funny fidos.

TC: How will TCT Austin be different from what is already available in the area?

Rebecca: TCT offers unique comprehensive academic services to students and families. The personalized system fosters a strong bond that transcends the traditional student-tutor relationship. A core value of TCT tutors is a commitment to developing fundamental learning skills to build the confidence of each learner and enable students to tackle challenges both within and beyond the academic realm.

Thinking Caps Tutoring is an innovative, after-school educational company that helps students acquire the skills and confidence needed to succeed in school, college, and beyond. TCT, through an individualized, descriptive screening process, matches students with student tutors best capable of overcoming a child's weak points and emphasizing strengths. Services provided at TCT include subject tutoring, skills coaching, homework support, standardized test prep and more.

For more information about TCT or any of the programs, please call us at 917.779.8183/512.351.3612 or send an email to info@thinkingcapstutoring.com.

