

# Parents Still Make the Difference!



## Research shows that a strong work ethic leads to success

In today's highly-competitive workplace, it's not enough for your teen to possess the specific skills a job requires. He also needs a strong work ethic.

Research shows that a whopping 85% of people who lose their jobs do so because they lack good work habits. Employers say the top reasons they are forced to let people go are:

- Tardiness and absenteeism.
- Failure to follow instructions.
- Inability to get along with coworkers.

With a strong work ethic, your teen will be able to avoid these pitfalls. A good work ethic consists of:

- Dependability. A company needs to know that your teen will show up when he is scheduled to and that he will do his work.
- Initiative. An employer will expect your teen to be able to work on his own, follow directions and keep himself motivated.
- Interpersonal skills. Successful employees know how to communicate effectively and work on a team.

Whether he realizes it or not, your teen strengthens his work ethic every day in school. He practices dependability when he shows up for school and his classes on time. He displays initiative when he completes his class work and homework without being nagged by you or his teacher. And he works on interpersonal skills every time he has a group project. Your teen needs to remember to list these important qualities when applying for jobs.

### Great learning websites for your high schooler

Yes, it's fun to spend time playing Solitaire or Angry Birds online. But there are also some great websites that can help your teen with homework. Here are five of the best and what your teen can do at each one:

1. The New York Times Learning Networks, <http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com>
  - Read the news for each day.
  - Learn about "This Day in History."
  - Review the vocabulary word of the day.
  - See news-related maps.
2. Chemical Elements, [www.chemicalelements.com](http://www.chemicalelements.com)
  - Find basic data about elements on the periodic table.
  - See how to group elements.
3. American Memory, <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html>
  - Listen to sound recordings.
  - Read digital texts.
  - See still and moving pictures.
  - Check out maps.
4. Math Open Reference, [www.mathopenref.com/index.html](http://www.mathopenref.com/index.html)
  - Find definitions of terms used in geometry.
  - See examples of how to solve problems.
  - Diagrams.
5. Khan Academy, [www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org)
  - Learn subjects from algebra to art history.
  - Take practice college entrance exams.
  - Watch more than 2,700 videos on a wide range of subjects.

### Three steps can help your teen get over rejection from a college

Applying to college takes a lot of hard work. And now, those decision envelopes are arriving. Unfortunately, there's a chance your teen might not have been accepted to his top-choice college. Now what do you do?

First, get your emotions under control. It's normal to feel upset that your child is hurting. But a college rejection letter doesn't mean that your child isn't a good student or that you're a bad parent.

Then, give your teen time to get over the shock. He's not going to want to talk right away. When he's ready, help your teen take three steps:

1. Accept that rejection hurts. It's reasonable for your teen to feel like the rejection is personal, and it's understandable that he is hurting. But remind him that many schools are overwhelmed by the number of qualified students they must turn away, simply because they don't have enough space.
2. Understand what it means. What did your teen hope to accomplish at this particular school? Did he think it was the only place he could do that? Chances are good that there are other schools with similar programs.
3. Change direction. Help your teen think about what's next. Is he still waiting to hear from other colleges? Could he take classes at a community college and reapply to his dream school next year? Work together to come up with an alternate plan--and take action.