



10 Myths

You're Believing about Your Out-of-the-Box Teen that are Holding Them Back



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1. Parents must plan and direct all their teen's learning.

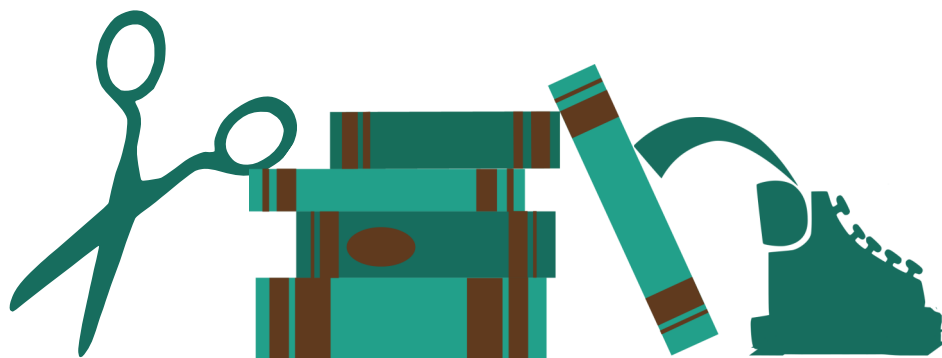
The FIRST thing to do when setting goals and planning your high schooler's high school program is to bring them to the table.

Your teen needs to be in the driver's seat!

No need to feel like you aren't teaching if your role switches and you become more of a facilitator and mentor.

In fact, that is a good place to be as a homeschooling high school parent.

Teens will enter high school in different places readiness wise, but start where they are and move toward giving them more ownership.



2. Conventional high school curriculum and methods are the only way to be college bound

You can develop custom courses and experiences which are rigorous even if they do not look the same as what conventional students are doing.

What a course “looks like” on the outside can be deceiving. Book work is not the only way to approach or accomplish academic goals!



3. Unstructured work is a waste of time

The truth is unstructured work develops:

A wide variety of skills,

time management,

a culture of learning,

and proficiency at directing your own learning.

These are things your high school student will need beyond their senior year in college or any path they take in the future.

As a mentor, you can work with your teens to discuss and interact with their unstructured projects.



4. Relaxed learning will not prepare them for college or the real world.

Being able to manage their own learning is one of the hallmarks of college success.

The types of skills developed in relaxed environments are useful.

Our own college kids report that their relaxed homeschooling environment has been key in their college experience. Specifically, they are not struggling like their peers are when it comes to being in charge of their own learning and progress.

Your teens will thank you for a high school program that does not burn them out and prepares them for what's next!



5. Project time is not real work.

Self-paced, student led, project-based learning gives our students opportunities to exercise many skills like initiative taking, problem solving, exploration, and communication.

It often feels like playing around or laziness which is hard for us as parents and it takes intentional thinking on your part to trust this process.

It will take focused energy for you to let go of your own educational experiences to believe that project time is just as valuable, and more so, than strict academic work.



6. Creative teens need to wait on their creative activities until all their other work is done.

Creative work is the *foundation* of their success, not the icing on the cake. Watch all their work flourish when your creative teen is creative *first* and consistently.

Insisting that your teen work first and “play” later will have a disastrous effect on their work. Work first and play later does not acknowledge how much the creative process affects every area of their lives.

It is possible to allow creativity to be at the helm of your student’s high school years and to see them achieve high academic standards.



7. Outsourced courses like dual enrollment and AP classes are necessary for all college bound teens.

For sure, some colleges will place importance on experiences that your teen had outside of your homeschool and you will be required to talk about them on the Common Application as a homeschooling parent.

However, it is a myth that you need to make outside courses a regular part of your homeschooled high schooler's day.

In our homeschool, we encourage one outsourced credit in high school. One year, one class (or two semesters, one class each semester) whether it is high school or college level.

This was enough for our college kids to get big stakes scholarships and an Ivy League admission.

Do what is right for your teen- not what you think you "should" do!



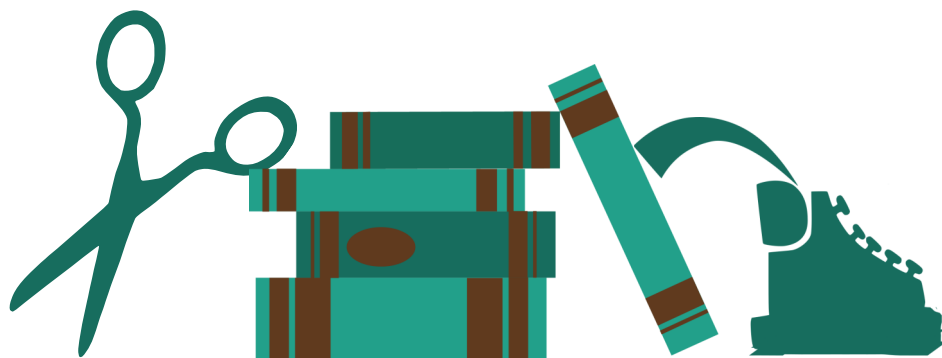
8. If your teen can't keep to a routine, it means they're lazy.

Teaching teens to manage their time is a long-term goal of high school. Remember that all the habit training you may do when they are young has its roots in what is best for you as mom.

Your teens will develop their own routine for success. We can nurture them along the way and help them to establish good behaviors, but in the end, they are responsible for their own work and how it gets done.

What may look like chaos to you (and it might be!) may still lead to big learning moments.

The key here is to check in with your teen and to help them put together a framework for success.



9. There is no time for your teen to pour into their passion because they must work on high school requirements.

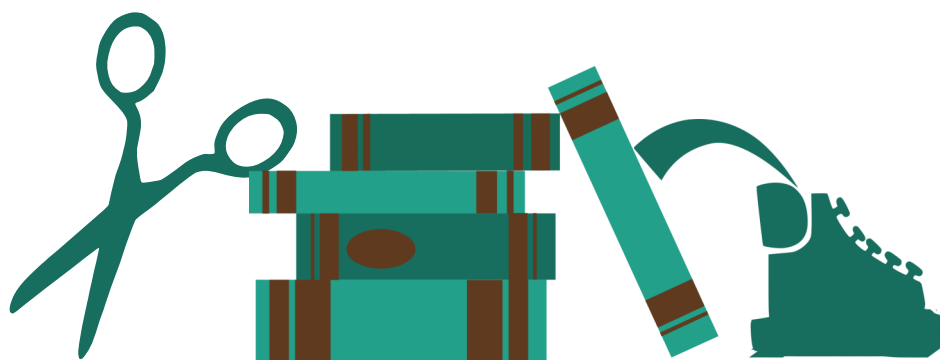
There *is* time. Much of what your teen will spend time on will count as a piece of their academics.

You can combine their passion pursuit with other work that is more conventional. Or, they may choose to work in their credits through and around their passion pursuit.

You and your teen are in charge of putting together a high school curriculum and a program of courses which helps your teen to thrive will be the one that includes a pursuit of what makes your teen's heart sing.

The key is to design a program that incorporates your teen's interest, so it can work for you and not against you.

Many parents see this as an obstacle rather than an opportunity!



10. Relaxed, interest led learning cannot check academic boxes.

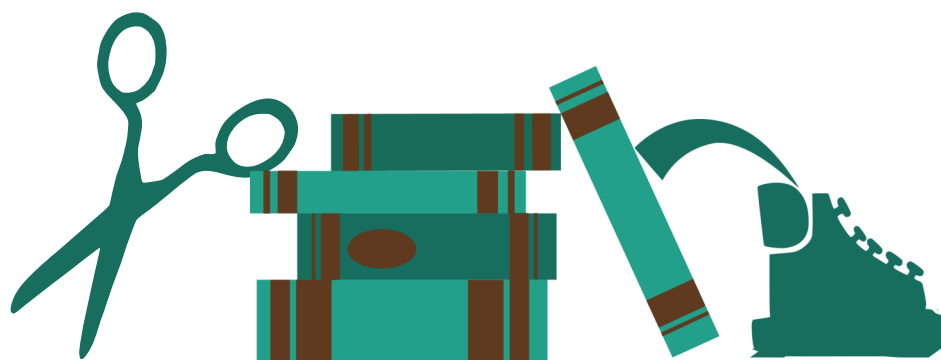
Courses come in categories whether it's English, Math, History, Science, Foreign Language, Fine Arts, or Physical Education.

Your teen's project work will fit into these categories and if they do not, it's time to employ an elective.

It's also a matter of how you name the work they are doing. A teen who loves to write and wants to be a novelist, can count their work for English credits and a Creative Writing elective. A teen who spends extraordinary time computer programming, will have Computer Science credits in high school. Your horse loving teen will have Equestrian Studies and Animal Science on her transcript.

Our daughter had five credits of Sewing & Design in high school. She now enjoys an Ivy League fashion design program.

Colleges and employers want to see what your teen has done with the opportunities that have been given to them. What will you do with the interest your teen has? Consider it a golden opportunity to do something amazing!





Homeschooling High School by Design

If you want to do a deep dive into planning a high school framework that is the perfect fit for your Out-of-the-Box Teen, then join me for [Homeschooling High School by Design](#).

This course, for homeschooling parents and their teens, offers 16 lessons with planning forms which walk you through the process of planning and implementing a custom high school.

