

Mastering College

by

Darren Sapp

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Also by Darren Sapp

FICTION

Fire on the Flight Deck

The Fisher Boy

Special Force: A World War II Commando Novel

Summer of '79

NON-FICTION

Aaron Bank and the Early Days of US Army Special Forces

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- 13) WE'RE HIRING
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The assignments section of the syllabus lays out your core workload with weighted percentages toward the final grade. This is the “meat” of the contract. You do a certain amount of work and are rewarded with a certain grade. An example might be:

Labs	10%
Quizzes	10%
Three Tests	20% each
Final Exam	20%

Below, I’ve included a sample of what might go on a calendar over two weeks for one class.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
2:00 pm–3:00 pm HIS 101 Prep	10:00 am–11:20 am HIS 101 Class	2:00 pm–3:00 pm HIS 101 Prep	10:00 am–11:20 am HIS 101 Class	3:00 pm–4:00 pm HIS 101 Reading		
2:00 pm–3:00 pm HIS 101 Prep	10:00 am–11:20 am HIS 101 Class	2:00 pm–3:00 pm HIS 101 Prep	10:00 am–11:20 am HIS 101 Class	3:00 pm–4:00 pm HIS 101 Reading	11:30 am–1:30 pm HIS 101 Writing	

Test yourself constantly.

Q: Who invaded Poland?

A: Germany.

Q: Why did Germany declare war on the United States?

A: Because they were a member of the Axis with Japan.

Q: Why did Japan attack the United States?

A: Due to American policies in the Far East.

Remember how you learned to do this in elementary algebra?

$$x - 2 = 1$$

Solve for x.

Add 2 to both sides.

$$x - 2 + 2 = 1 + 2$$

$$x = 3$$

Now plug in 3 for the x.

$$3 - 2 = 1$$

Dr. McHenry,

I'm taking PHIL 3300 next semester and am curious if you could send me the syllabus or a list of the required texts so I can get a head start on the reading over the holidays.

Thanks,
Cate Smith

Following is an example of how you can organize your files, and I'll expand one section so you get the idea.

- College Life/Misc.
- Science
- Math
- History
 - American History 101
 - American History 102
 - Western Civilization 201
 - Syllabus/Misc.
 - Lecture Notes
 - Unit 1
 - Unit 2
 - Unit 3
 - Quizzes
 - Prep
 - Graded
 - Tests
 - Study Guides
 - Graded
 - Research Paper
 - Requirements
 - Ideas/Outline
 - Sources
 - Manuscript
 - Western Civilization 202
- English
- Foreign Language
- Major
- Electives
- Networking
- Volunteer
- Personal

The outline gets us there. Here's a sample:

- I. Introduction
 - A. Thesis statement
 - B. Supporting direction
 - II. The history of term limits
 - A. Athens, Rome
 - B. Modern
 - C. By type of office
 - III. Arguments against term limits
 - A. Experience
 - B. Devoted service
 - C. Less campaigning
 - IV. Arguments for term limits
 - A. New perspectives
 - B. Money
 - C. Breakup Old Boys' Club
 1. Corruption
 - a) By individual
 - (1) Example from 1960 election
 - (2) Example from 2018 election
 - b) Local election leader
 - c) By party officials
 - d) Cronyism
 2. One party maintains power longer
 3. Gerrymandering
- V. Conclusion

What is 10% of 100? Easy, right? The answer is 10, but let's convert that plain-English sentence into algebra. The word "what" is the unknown represented by "x." The word "is" means equal. Percentage converts to hundredths, so slide that decimal point two digits over. That 10 is really 10.0, but we have it rounded in the sentence. So, expressing 10 as a percentage is 0.10. What about "of"? That's our multiplication word represented by a vertically centered dot.

The Problem: What is 10% of 100?

Converted: $x = 0.10 \cdot 100$

Solution: $x = 10$

You may not even understand how to convert the percentage, but I hope you see the concept of translation between math and English. Here's another example, in reverse.

The Problem: $x - 6 = 2$

Converted: What subtracted by six is two?

Solution: 8

Most curriculums are built something like this:

- 120 total hours of study
 - 60 hours of core courses that everyone at the university takes
 - 51 hours from required courses
 - 9 hours from free electives
 - 40 hours of required courses that are the same for those in that major
 - 20 hours of electives within that major field of study

What else goes in your budget? Below I list some to think about, but make sure every regular expenditure is listed and assigned a dollar amount, and that an appropriate savings is set aside for irregular expenses and the emergencies that will happen.

- Tithe/Charitable Giving
- Savings
- Auto Insurance
- Auto Maintenance (oil change, tires, registration)
- Phone
- Laundry
- Toiletries
- Clothing
- Food (not in meal plan)
- Entertainment

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND SUGGESTED RESOURCES

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