

## **How to be Successful in a College Classroom: Tips and Guidance from a Professor with 30 Years Experience in Passing and Flunking Students**

Two great myths: (1) "My daughter's high school GPA means success at college."  
(2) "My son's ACT score means success at college."

**What:** A workshop designed for the **high school senior** planning on **going to college**. The purpose is to provide the student with very **useful tips on how to be successful in the college classroom**. (These tips can also help improve performance in the senior year of high school!)

**Format:** Offered in an actual **college classroom**, consisting of four 50-minute sessions. With ten-minute breaks between sessions, it replicates what might be a **typical day in the life of a college freshman**.

Session 1: **"The Classroom"**

Session 2: **"The Lecture"\***

Session 3: **"Preparation"**

Session 4: **"The Term Paper: using a PERT Strategy"**

\* Session 2 includes a college-level lecture. Students' notes are reviewed/analyzed from the perspective of success with college test-taking.

**When:** Four dates from which to choose:

Sunday, **AUGUST 29, 2010** – 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, **DECEMBER 19, 2010** – 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, **JANUARY 16, 2011** – 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, **JUNE 5, 2011** – 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**LIMIT:** **50 students per workshop date**  
(acceptance based on order of completed registrations received)

**Where:** The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB)  
University Boulevard Office Building (UBOB) – room 108  
1201 University Blvd  
Birmingham, AL 35205

**Parking:** available in the UBOB parking garage.

**What to bring:**

- ✓ a notebook
- ✓ a **BLUE** pen
- ✓ a new or unread paperback book on any topic

**EARLY Registration Fee:\* \$50** (on-site registration fee:\* \$75)

EARLY fee due with completed registration form, at least one week prior to selected workshop)

scholarships available based on financial need

\* **all** workshop fees go to help the **homeless population** in Birmingham through the Church of the Reconciler – a homeless mission church in the downtown area.

For more information about the homeless mission at Reconciler, go to its website:  
[www.churchofthereconciler.org](http://www.churchofthereconciler.org).

Below are some of the many supporters of the homeless mission at Reconciler:

**Asbury United Methodist Church**  
**Beeson Divinity School, Samford University**  
**Birmingham Islamic Society**  
**Bluff Park United Methodist Church**  
**Canterbury United Methodist Church**  
**Cathedral Church of the Advent**  
**Church of the Highlands**  
**Christian Walk Baptist Church**  
**Clearwater Community Church**  
**First Presbyterian Church**  
**Hands On Birmingham**  
**Holy Infant Catholic Church**  
**Lebanon Baptist Church**  
**Morningstar United Methodist Church**  
**North Alabama Conference, UMC**  
**Open Door Church**

**Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church**  
**Prince of Peace Catholic Church**  
**Riverchase United Methodist Church**  
**Samford University**  
**St. John's AME Church**  
**St. Mark's United Methodist Church**  
**Southminster Presbyterian Church**  
**Temple Beth-El**  
**Temple Emanu-El**  
**Trinity United Methodist Church**  
**UAB School of Nursing**  
**Vestavia Hills Baptist Church**  
**Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church**  
**Victory Christian Fellowship**  
**Westwood Baptist Church**  
**Youth Works**

## **What others have said about this workshop:**

**Dr. Slack,**

**You delivered! Thank you so much for the excellent presentation you provided our son in your seminar this past Sunday at UAB. We were thrilled to hear him say you were great, and that he was duly frightened by the prospect of how much work will be required of him to get anywhere in life....WOW!!! This is a good thing because somehow, teenagers do not believe parents --- it seems a rite of passage to not do so ---- Yet you were able to communicate to him the soberness and challenge in what lies ahead for him in college while also motivating him to WANT to rise to the challenge. How awesome is that??? Thank you again.**

**Sincerely, Mrs. Joann Pappas**

**Hi professor slack, I just wanted to thank you for providing a class like that. I apply what you taught me in the seminar to my classes now and my high school teachers are very shocked at my knowledge of the way a college class should be. I appreciate you for emailing me back your opinion. Thank you!!**

**- Katherine**

**Thank you very much Doctor Slack. I need all the advice I can get. I am most likely going to be attending Auburn in the fall so any information you have would be greatly appreciated.**

**- Trey (responding to the lecture note analysis)**

**Professor Slack,**

**Thank you very much, your class was very informative and can hopefully help in the future. I appreciate your comments on my notes. I'll have to take that as well as any other tips you shared into consideration. Note-taking, be it as important as it is, is hardly stressed for the majority of a high school career at Spain Park, so anything you have to offer there would be highly appreciated as well.**

**- Caleb**

**Dr. Slack,**

**Thank you for taking time on a beautiful Sunday to help these kids gain some insight on how to succeed in their future college experience. [My son] said you were a good teacher and he did learn some things in your seminar. We have always told him that it is up to him to get the most out of every tool that we have tried to put in front of him. We cant do it for him, but we hope that he will be well-equipped to weather the next 4 years to get his degree.**

**We hope you will offer this again next spring as we have another son that will be a senior next year that we have already started preparing for his college leap from the nest.**

**Sincerely yours, Mrs. Lindsay Thornton**

**Thank you so much!! Your class was very helpful and I am so glad I participated in it! I start in about 3 weeks and feel very prepared! Thank you again Dr. Slack!**

**- Courtney**

## **About the workshop instructor:**

Professor James D. Slack, Ph.D. is the facilitator of this workshop. He is a professor in the Department of Government at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). Professor Slack earned the Ph.D. and Masters degrees from Miami University and the B.A. from Ohio University. He has published six books and over 50 scholarly articles.

Dr. Slack has 30 years experience at a wide variety of academic settings: selective private liberal arts colleges; selective "Public-Ivy" universities; teaching-based state universities; research-oriented state universities; urban universities; residential college campuses. He has taught at all college levels, with classrooms ranging from small seminars to large survey sections.

Students and colleagues have nominated Professor Slack for a variety of teaching awards, including the Presidential Award for Teaching Excellence at the University of Alabama at Birmingham; the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA) Outstanding Teacher Award and NASPAA's Elmer B. Staats Award. Professor Slack has been a member of the faculty-in-residence for the **Junior Statesman Summer Program**, held in Washington, D.C., and the **Virginia Governor's School for Gifted and Talented Students**.

Dr. Slack can be reached at [jslack@uab.edu](mailto:jslack@uab.edu).