

# Module 8: Tools for Survival

## Topic 3 Content: Get Smart

### Introduction


#### Get Smart

Set Goals

Be Aware of Your Situation

Research

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Three ways that you can "get smart" are to set goals, be well aware of your current situation, and do research. Take a moment to explore some ways that you can "get smart." Click on each of the tabs to learn how you can get smart in surviving high school.

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A goal provides a focus. You should always set big and small goals as well as long-term and short-term goals. When goals are set, you have a focus and a purpose. Goals help in creating a blueprint. In setting goals, you should always ask yourself the following questions:

- What do you want to do?
- What do you see yourself doing in the future?



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Setting goals makes you focused in your decision-making when it comes to future plans because you have a clear purpose.

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#### Be Aware of Your Situation

While setting your goals, you should take a good look at yourself and observe the following:

- your accomplishments thus far
- the classes you are taking
- the relationships you have built
- the grades you are making

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Once you have a firm understanding of your current situation and where you are in your journey to accomplishing your goals, it is essential to reflect on how the previous elements play a role in achieving your goals. You may determine that you are definitely heading in the right direction, or you may find that there is something about your situation that poses an obstacle to reaching your goals. If that is the case, it is good that you see the barrier now so that you can start to rectify your situation and get back on track. For example, if you decided that you want to be a doctor someday, you may realize that you are not signing up for the appropriate classes, or maybe you are not earning acceptable grades in the classes that will best prepare you for medical school. It is okay if you evaluate your situation and realize there are some problems as long as you take action to solve those problems.

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### Research

A major part in "getting smart" is researching. Taking the time to thoroughly research anything that can help you enhance your current high school experience will increase your chances of future success and reaching your goals. Imagine choosing a career path and then discovering at the end of many years of hard work that there is another career that suits you better. The more you research your options, the more you will be likely to have the knowledge to make the best decision for your future.



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- enrichment programs or internships that can increase your skills and understanding regarding your interests
- clubs and organizations
- test-taking strategies and study skills
- colleges/universities or technical schools (find out the location, rank, admission requirements, majors, cost of attendance, and financial aid assistance)
- scholarships or awards of recognition
- entrance exam information (find out the description, purpose, scores, cost, preparation needed, and when and where it is offered)
- careers (find out the essential skills, education or training required, typical job duties, salary or pay, job security, etc.)