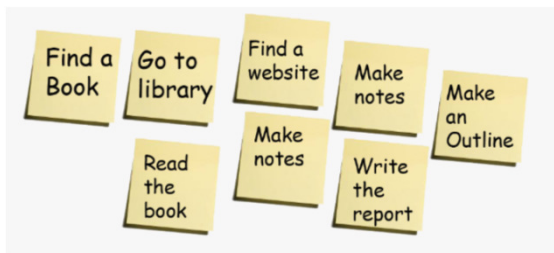


Learning how to schedule a project and budget your time! **

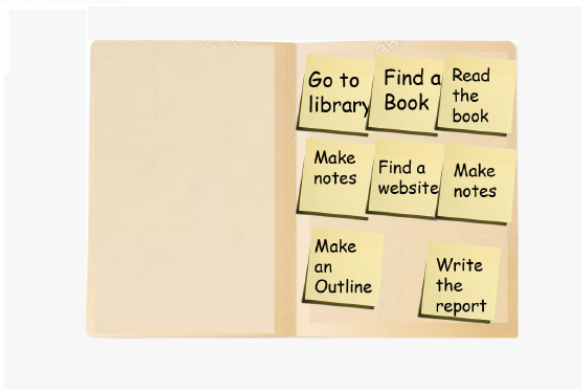
First project...

1. Make a list of what you need to do. The list does not have to be in order. For example, "Write a report on George Washington using 3 sources." The list could be...
 - Find a book.
 - Go to the library. (Because you need to do that to find a book.)
 - Read the book.
 - Make notes from the book.
 - Find a website with information about George Washington.
 - Make notes from the website.
 - Etc. etc.

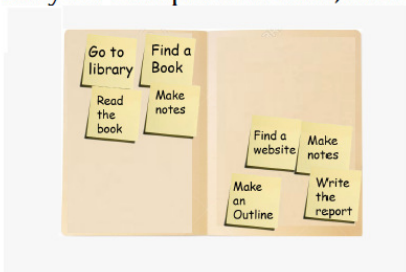
2. Write each item on a post it.



3. Arrange the post its on the manila folder in the order in which things should be done.



4. Add dates for when you want to complete each task. Write them on each post it note.
5. As you complete a task, move it over to the other side.



6. By the time all the post its are moved, you will be done.

Second project...

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1. Make a list of what you need to do. The list does not have to be in order. For example, "Write a report on George Washington using 3 sources."

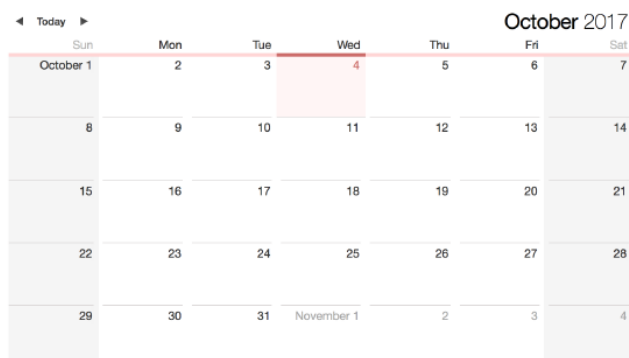
The list could be...

- Find a book.
 - Go to the library. (Because you need to do that to find a book.)
 - Read the book.
 - Make notes from the book.
 - Find a website with information about George Washington.
 - Make notes from the website.
- Etc. etc.

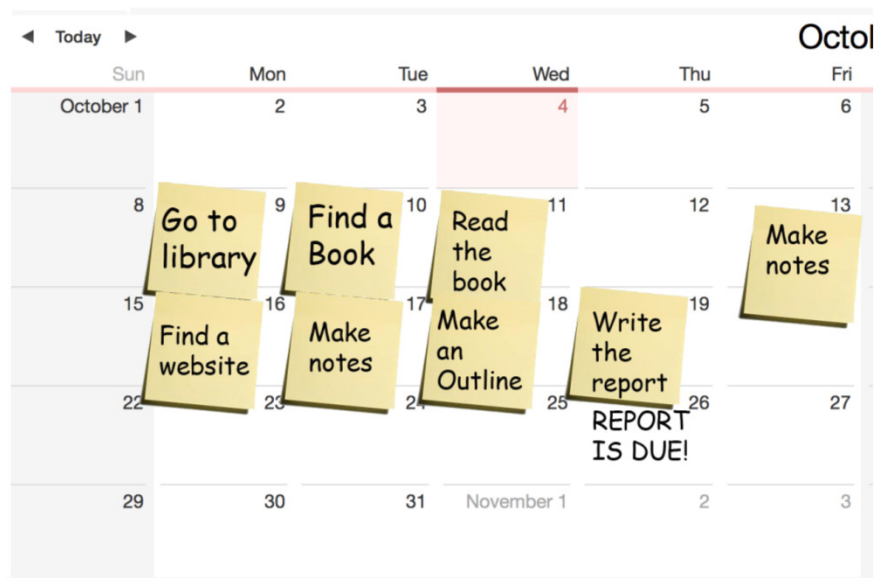
2. Write each item on a post it.

3. Put the post its in order.

4. Print out a blank calendar.



5. Have your child put the post its on the calendar.



** contributed by panelist Caroline Solberg

Thoughts on Middle School

STEP BACK AND OBSERVE

Use 6th grade as a time to observe. Step back. Watch to see where your child succeeds and where your child needs help.

In elementary school, parents help a lot! That's ok because often teachers assign projects without explaining how a child should execute the project. The parents have to teach that and the parents are not trained as teachers. So often the parents do the project for the child or do too much of the project for the child.

By middle school, it is time to step back and see what the child can do.

By the way, middle school grades don't count. If your child fails, they will move them on to the next grade. They will even move them on to high school. Failing doesn't hold a student back until they are in high school. However, not learning the material will hamper them for years.

LEARN ABOUT THE AVAILABLE RESOURCES

If your child is struggling in middle school, meet with the counselor to find out what help the school has available. There are often after school, homework help classes. Teachers will sometimes meet with students during lunch, before school or after school. What resources are available?

Have your child use those resources before you step in and help? Your child needs to begin to figure out how to get help outside of his/her parents.

** contributed by panelist Caroline Solberg

Homework Help

Supporting your child's education

Parents and families play an important role in the homework process. Together, families can help children develop good study habits and attitudes that lead to becoming lifelong learners. Your job is not to do the work for them, but to provide support, encouragement and ask questions that help them arrive at the answers themselves.

Why do teachers give homework?

Teachers use homework:

- To help students understand and review the work that has been covered in class
- To see whether students understand the lesson
- To help students learn how to find and use more information on a subject
- To teach responsibility and routine.



Ways of supporting your child's efforts in homework

- Balance other demands on your child's time – school activities, sports, chores – with expected time for homework.
- Recognize your child's learning style. Some students function better with frequent breaks, some in an active environment, some in absolute quiet. Discuss these issues with your child, possibly experimenting to find the right timing and setting for completing homework.

- Encourage your child's resourcefulness and problem-solving skills. For example, if an assignment has been forgotten, ask questions such as "Is it posted online somewhere?" "Who could you call from your class to get it?" or "Have you searched your whole backpack?"
- Set up a family routine of healthy eating and sleep habits.
- Participate in back-to-school night, parent-teacher conferences, and open house; and read all communications coming from school.

How much time should my child spend on homework each night?

Most educators agree:

- For children in grades K-2, homework is more effective when it does not exceed 20 minutes each school day
- Older children, in grades 3-6, can handle 30-60 minutes a day
- For kids in middle and high school, two hours of homework may be assigned
- However, homework time and strategies can vary from teacher to teacher and school to school.

Some things to ask about homework

- Your child's teacher can tell you, usually at back-to-school night, how much time he or she expects students to spend on homework.
- Your child's teacher may have a website or other resource that posts homework assignments.
- Your child's school may have an online grading system, which allows parents to check their child's grades, attendance and homework status on a daily basis. This allows you to keep on top of any issues before they become problems.
- It is important to know how to handle homework if your child needs to be absent. Make sure you and your child know and understand this policy for each class.

For more information, go to:

www.capta.org/homework

Or search "homework" at www.capta.org/homework