

This iBelieve Essays

Look at all Those A's

by Judith Gonzalez

See, there are two different types of people, when it comes to tardiness. There's those who get to school late one day and don't let it happen again. Then, there's the type who lose interest in maintaining a perfect attendance after one lateness. I am the type who loses interest.

"Attention all passengers, we are currently being held in the train station due to the train traffic ahead of us. We will be moving shortly." There isn't one day that goes by where I don't have to deal with a delay on the A train. Do I have the option of taking the 1 train? Yes I do, but it's an additional 10 minutes to my daily ride. I'm not much of a people person, or a morning person for that matter, so I choose the shorter commute. However, the inevitable delays always seem to make me late by at least one minute (at the iSchool, 9:00 is considered late).

Row New York is a sports program I attend six days a week: five days of practice and one day where the student-athletes are able to get their homework done. My coaches and tutors keep track of our academic progress by collecting our report cards every quarter and going over them together. I had no issue with speaking about my first-quarter grades because I had everything above an 89 percent. Usually my tutor/coach and I discuss both the positive and the negative aspects about my report card and end up coming to an agreement on how to improve; however, this time, we weren't on the same page. More specifically, I didn't agree with the fact that the number of tardies, printed below my grades, was a negative aspect.

I believe that my grades are more important than my tardiness.

After clearly seeing that I was getting frustrated, my tutor tried explaining her concerns. She thought I was missing out on some lessons, but in reality I was just missing some of my "independent works," classes where I'm given the opportunity to do my work. I understand her worries, but I need her to trust that I can stay on top of myself. The thing is that in the iSchool, you're not treated just like any other high schooler. At the iSchool, the students are responsible for making up their missing work, on their own time; teachers are not going to chase after us and we know that. Knowing that I have that responsibility on my shoulders makes me feel exposed to how I will be living in the future, as an adult.

At the end of the conversation, I kept it honest and straightforward. If I believe that being late on a certain day won't have a negative impact on my grades, then I'm going to be late. And if my grade does suffer due to my actions, I believe that I'll be able to redeem myself. I told my tutor that I was making no promises on keeping the number of tardies low, but I would try to improve my grades because there is always room for improvement. This talk helped me realize that I can accomplish sustaining a report card full of grades above an 89 percent without perfect

attendance, especially when I have people trying to help me “fix” what I don’t personally view as a problem.

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