

Making the Grade

Your grade point average reflects your grades in every class, not just the core subjects like reading, writing, math, and science. **Do you think that classes like music, art and physical education ought to be included in your grade point average?** On the one hand, some people aren't good at these things and will probably never be—should that count against them when they do well in academic subjects? On the other hand, school should prepare you for the rest of your life, and there are many circumstances in life where a person must be able to capably handle a task or subject that is not his or her greatest strength.



Plan an essay in which you answer the question. Your *audience* will be your principal, school administration or school board. The purpose of your essay should be to convince your audience of your point of view.

1. What is your point of view? _____

2. What approach will you take in order to make your case? Consider the kinds of things that would resonate with your audience. What kinds of reasons or evidence would they value?

3. If necessary, conduct research to learn more about the subject to strengthen your case.

4. Now, on a separate sheet of paper, write your essay. When you have finished, trade papers with a classmate. Review each other's work and provide feedback on how well the purpose and audience have been addressed.