

Coping with being a teen in high school

by Dana Eads

I am writing this essay from first-hand experience. All information is solely my opinion.

I started my first job two days after I turned 16 at G&W Foods. I was thrilled. I felt so grown up, driving and having a job. That excitement lasted the whole summer.

Then when my junior year started, I was shocked at how hard it really was. I worked on an average of 35 hours a week, plus went to school for almost eight hours a day. I got an average of eight hours of sleep a night. That left only 37 hours a week for me to study, clean my room and all other things that are necessary. I usually was left with barely, if any, free time. To me, that was the hardest thing to deal with.

I knew if I wanted to continue driving and shopping, I was going to have to deal with working, and in a tactful way. So I had to have some strategies to make everything run smoothly. My number one strategy is organization. Organization plays a major role in my life. I keep a daily agenda with all my tasks for the day written down. When I accomplish a task, I simply

mark it out and start on the next thing.

Since most of my teachers give me homework that has a due date, I have a strategy to getting it done right and on time. I use my time in the classroom wisely. I do what homework I can in class, and then I only have a small amount to finish later.

I usually had to be to work anywhere from 15-45 minutes after school. Instead of riding around town, I would go straight to work and do any extra homework I had at the break table. By that time I usually had all my homework done and only a few tests or quizzes to study for. I would then work my four hour shift and get home around 8:30 p.m. After I took a shower and ate something, I usually studied for 15 minutes or did any miscellaneous work that had to be done. I would go to bed and wake up to do it all over the next day.

I didn't work every night. I generally got a Monday or Tuesday off. In that one night, I had to cram spending time with my family, preparing for college, picking up my room, and being with my boyfriend. To do this without overlooking

anything, I would just give each task a time limit. To say the least, there was never a minute when I complained about being bored.

I think that working at G&W taught me responsibility and maturity. My advice to any teen working while in high school is to stay organized and use your time wisely. It can get rough, but being responsible enough to handle tough situations is a method you are going to use throughout your life.

I am going to start working at the Department of Corrections only 19 hours a week. With all my extra time, I do not plan to take advantage of it. I will never quit using the routines I have made for myself. They work well for me. I know if I am strong enough to accomplish what I have, anyone can do it. Just deal with each step as it comes, have faith in yourself and use your time wisely.

