



The Freshman Edition

Achieving Success

Name:

School:

Freshman Survivor

Although it has been a time of transition, you are almost finished with your freshman year of high school. You have a better understanding of yourself, how this high school stuff works, and how to get along better with everyone. Now that you are a “freshman expert,” you want to share your knowledge and design a manual to help next year’s freshman class. So you and a partner have made the choice to create the ultimate high school survivor guide—*Survivor: The Freshman Edition*. You want your manual to really appeal to its audience, so you decided to develop a variety of tools (e.g., graphic organizers, crossword puzzles, study and be-smart guide, word search, top-10 lists,

grades and goals, technology to manage, stay-cool rules) to assist the new freshmen in making a smooth transition to high school. Your manual will be bound together in a professional format and include at least six of the following aspects that you think are most important:

- Demonstration of how academic achievement supports personal and career growth
- Decision-making steps relating to context, alternatives, consequences
- Identification of resources (including technology) that support planning for personal and academic success
- Identification of skills needed for self-efficacy and aca-

ademic growth

- Examples of goal-setting and planning strategies
- Explanation of academic achievement indicators (e.g., GPA, standardized tests)
- Skills needed for task completion
- Examination of various influences on personal and academic life
- Description of productive school behaviors (e.g., cooperation, responsibility, appropriate dress, appropriate language, punctuality, attendance)
- Explanation of social skills that lead to effective school and family relationships
- Effective responses to age, cultural, and ethnic diversity

Critical Questions

- What does it take to be academically successful?
- What do personal skills have to do with academic success?
- How can thoughts, feelings, and actions defeat or inspire academic success?
- What are consequences of an academic record?
- How are new academic and life-success behaviors developed (e.g., goal setting, planning)?
- How can I like school enough to keep my focus and work hard?

Survivor Reflection

You will finalize this project by writing a reflection providing feedback on how you, as a freshman, were able to survive and thrive using the principles in your classmate’s *Survivor: Freshman Edition* manual along with

establishing new success goals for yourself. You will do this by answering the question: What will I do toward being personally and academically successful? Use the Problem Solving Think Sheet as a way to con-

sider a plan for your own future success. The result will be a specific plan for your success for the remainder of your high-school years to demonstrate that you are a survivor beyond your freshman year!

