



## **Ten bad habits we learn in school**

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1- Don't make mistakes.

In school, we are punished for our mistakes. The general message is: "only stupid people make mistakes." Well, sorry. Nobody's perfect. You are going to make some mistake, especially when doing something new. As long as you learn from your errors, it is OK. Mistakes are part of the process, you can't edit them out. They just point you in the right direction.

I discovered that I was not a follower when I was 8. I did the exercise but did not follow the teacher's rules. She wrote on my report card that I was "stubborn". Not stubborn, just unwilling to believe that there is only one way for getting things done, her way. As the saying goes, "All roads lead to Rome". So as long as you reach your destination, who cares which road you take?

3- Work on your weaknesses.

In his book *"Go put your strengths to work"*, Marcus Buckingham says that we shouldn't fix our weaknesses. *What !?!?* Let's say, you suck at maths and take extra classes. Which only make you realize how bad you are. On the other hand, doing what you love makes you feel great. So, stop worrying about the bad in you and focus on the good.

4- Win, loose or draw.

No one wants to loose, but there can only be one winner. And that is the problem. Competition is drilled into us from an early age. We want to win, even if it means beating other people up. But it doesn't have to be that way. It is possible for both sides to get what they want. Win/Lose is childish. Win/Win is the best choice. What is the fun in winning if you have no one to celebrate with?

5- We all learn the same way.

Ever got bored stiff in the classroom? Here's why: contrary to popular belief, learning is not done only through listening. Research by Pr Gardner from Harvard proves that there are 7 different learning

styles. So if you fall asleep in class, don't worry. You are not lazy, listening is just not for you.

6- " Good grades = good job".

That is a tough one, I hear it all the time. And each time, I feel like I have travelled back through time. Wake up, people. Look at the world around you. Loyal employees are getting laid off every day. Stop teaching your kids outdated stuff. Instead of working for money, have your money work for you. Way smarter.

7- The lesson will come to you.

School teaches us to be passive. Rather than look for the lesson, we just sit there. We need to become active learners. Put yourself under the microscope : what do you need to improve? Then, find your lesson. It could be a book you read, a conversation with someone, searching the Internet. Nowadays, information is everywhere and cheap. You just have to take charge.

8- You need to know everything.

In school, it's lesson first, then exercises. In life, it's the other way round: practice comes first. Meaning there is no time to prepare. You work with what you have. No need to be a walking encyclopedia before you start anything. You will learn along the way. Be self confident enough to begin, even if you are not perfect. Take action, practice makes perfect.

9- Work hard.

We are always told to work hard. But sometimes hard work will get you nowhere, if you are using the wrong method. Instead, try to work smart. Rather than barging in, analyze the situation first. Use your brain to find a solution that is faster, better and effortless. Not long ago, I stumbled on this saying: "Wealth is when small efforts produce large results. Poverty is when large efforts produce small results".

10- You are not the subject.

Last but not least, geography and history might be important, but not as important as you. Learning these subjects makes you well-read, but learning about yourself is priceless. You are the most important person in your life. Take the time to know yourself: what motivates

**you,how you see the world.Without self awareness,life is nothing but a journey in the dark.So,bring in some light.**

### **About the author**

**Jamila Diallo is the author of "You don' t learn that in school !",available now at Feedbooks.**

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