



*Your Comprehensive Record
Reading and Awards Lists*



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Your Comprehensive Record Reading and Awards List

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Disclaimer: Parents assume full responsibility for the education of their children in accordance with state law.

In addition, parents assume full responsibility for the accuracy of all homeschool records.

Your Comprehensive Record

Reading and Awards List

Colleges want to see passion in your child since they want to know the interests that your children have had that have lasted all four years of high school or something that they are truly committed to. A commitment to an activity over the years of high school can predict success in college. Since the child is stuck with it for four years, it is likely they can stick with it in college.

Another purpose in having this list is to fill in gaps. Not everything can be reduced to grades and credits, and some things are not just something you can put into boxes; this list can fill in that information. It presents a third-dimension of your child.

Colleges do not want cookie-cutter kids; they don't want kids who look like all the other kids. Instead, they want somebody who looks unusual and different. One of the ways you can do that is through your activity and awards list.

Reading List

This is a list, not a bibliography, where you only need the author and title. Be consistent on which you put first: either always the author first or always the title first. With consistency, you can alphabetize your work and by doing so, it can help you eliminate any duplication that you may have, and it can help you in the long run to make it appear more professional.

There are some kids that reading six books a year is a big accomplishment for them, and there are other kids that read six hundred books a year. Your reading

list can be somewhere in-between. Sometimes it's a good idea to have one list per year; other times, it's a good idea to have one list for all of high school. Your reading list is not tied to any reading analysis.

The reading list is sometimes requested from private and public-school kids, too, and it's meant to include the books that they read at home and, generally speaking, they don't do reading analysis when they are reading books at home, so it's not something you take into consideration in your reading list.

You can include the books that you required them to read for school. Go over your curriculum list and see which books they've read and put them on their reading list. Some parents will even include textbooks; I decided not to do that since my kids are prolific readers. It is okay to include just excerpts of books.

If they have completed 75% of the curriculum or more, then consider it done. If your excerpt of the book is 75% or more, you probably don't need to say anything other than the title and the author of the book. If you read three chapters of a particular book, then you can indicate them as excerpts from the book in your list.

You can also put those books into the course descriptions. The book you used for English class might be *The Red Badge of Courage*, and you can put that on the reading list and also put that on your course description. You can also include any books of faith, so if you have a bible, devotionals, or something similar, you can include those.

You can include books that they read for fun. Popular literature such as *Harry Potter*, *Twilight*, *Marley and Me*, or other books in popular literature can also be included in the list. Colleges worry about homeschoolers reading only the great books. Colleges want the children to also read popular literature so that they can experience the current culture. So, it's okay for you to include books from the New York Times Best Sellers list.

You can also include any specialization reading. Books they read that aren't required by the school but that they read can be included on the reading list. You can also include audio books – just make sure that you indicate this beside the title. That can help if you have a struggling reader; you can broaden their reading by providing an audio book format.

Books that are read aloud can also be put in the reading list as well as magazine subscriptions. You can also include the great books, the living books, and even the stupid books because variety is good when it comes to the reading list.

By having a prolific reader, you can provide each booklist by year. Record as many books as you can because you are going to lose some of the books they've read, since prolific readers will read books even when you're not looking at them. One of the ways you can record the books that you can't possibly record is to keep all of your library lists and receipts; those can help you remember the titles and names of the authors of the books your child has read.

With prolific readers, you might want to strive for every month or every quarter to compile what they have read. It's not necessary to record everything; what you're trying to do is demonstrate a breadth of reading and give the colleges an impression of a well-read, voracious reader.

For reluctant readers, you can provide one list that encompasses all of their high school. That's probably more common for public school kids, so it isn't looked upon differently than anything else. Begin keeping a reading list in freshman year because when you don't have many books, it's important to keep all that you can. When you begin that in freshman year, that can help you identify the problem if the reading list is only 5-6 books then you'll be able to make your list better.

With reluctant readers, you can encourage reading in a variety of different ways. Utilize technology to encourage reading – have them use audio books during activities, MP3 or any downloadable format. You can purchase a Kindle, an iPad, an e-reader, and even the Nintendo DS to use as an e-reader. Sometimes the use of technology will encourage kids to love technology more than they dislike reading.

You can also encourage reluctant readers by focusing in on their specialization area. Try to find high quality literature that is slightly below their grade or reading level. You can also focus reading in the summer, at least one book per month, to add to the books they've read.

Encourage reluctant readers by reading aloud, and include the books that you read aloud to them on their reading list. Reading aloud can get kids hooked on high quality books; sometimes if you read the first two chapters, the rest of the book will fall into place afterwards.

When you have a reluctant reader, I would encourage you to use short books as much as you can. There are plenty of short books on different reading lists that you'll be able to find. Try to find books on the reading list for the college bound that are short. If you need any help in getting them, all you have to do is talk to the librarian because they can help you figure out which books are good for kids to read, and they can help you with that even when you're in high school level.

Some reluctant readers are reluctant not because they don't like to read – it's just that they're active learners. What you can do is to find books that have very active main characters. Tom Sawyer, for example, is a character in a book who always gets into tons of trouble; whereas, a Jane Austen book is mostly about girls sitting around thinking stuff. Think about the movie genre they like because you may be able to find a book in that similar genre.

Remember that even for active learners, choosing a non-fiction about doing things is fine. Survival books, building books, or electronics books are very good examples. Again, ask the librarians because they have great ideas. You can also read and watch active plays for active learners.

One thing you can do in general is to make sure that they're reading about specialization – books and magazines about their passion. Also, take a look at the reading list for the college bound as well as good homeschool catalogues to know what books to read.

Activity and Awards

One thing you want to remember is that you plan these lists to be paired because colleges will often, but not always, ask for it. The problem with that is that every college is unique; each college is so unique that it's impossible to tell which format you're going to need it in. You can keep a piece of notebook paper and just list on the activities that they've been involved there.

You can list your activities twice since they have that on the application. You can also put them briefly on your transcript. You want to give the colleges the information exactly the way they want it, but it is recommended that you keep a minimum amount of detail, at least, on your transcript because that way, these things won't be left unsaid and you won't forget to put them on your application just because they left you a wide open piece of paper – you'll still remember that piece of information.

Activities and awards, you want to be thinking about activities your kids did for all four years at school – the colleges like that stick-to-it-ive-ness and they want to see kids who will stick to college for four years as well. When you're listing them, if you can list your four-year activities first then that will help show that consistent interest over four years of high school.

Next in line, if you can list those activities or awards that came with some sort of leadership or award at the end of each one because what colleges want to see is that the kids are rising to a leadership position or that they have received an award within that activity. You can also include activities of a shorter duration and place those (or that information) at the end.

When you think about activities and awards, sometimes those activities are actually school subjects – for example: theatre groups or debate teams. Sometimes activities are not something you would put as a school subject like training service dogs or volunteer service or something like that. It is a good idea to list volunteer activities; there are some applications that will ask those specific type of questions about whether it was volunteer work or just an activity or employment and how many years of volunteer service. That's something you can think about doing because applications ask for that as a separate list.

It is helpful to keep a rough estimate of hours they spent on volunteer service. The colleges may ask you for what year the volunteer service was done; usually it's enough to say the year. Again, when you're thinking about the activities and awards – what goes first: the things that were done for all four years with awards.

Next would be the things that were done for all four years without awards. Next would be the most meaningful thing to your child. Next would be the things that were done for a shorter duration or maybe were less meaningful. One of the things that you're going to notice is that sometimes these things get a little confusing to you because they're both activity and they're on the transcript. When it's an activity – maybe you're involved with an organization or group like a choir or band or orchestra. But you can also have that activity be a credit.

Think back to when you were in high school, there were some which were considered both activity and high school credit like choir or journalism or yearbook. When you're thinking about doing that with your home school, think

back to those examples and say “if my child had done that in high school, would they get both activity and high school credit for it?”

Activities as a Class

If you decide that you’re going to make it a class, usually that’s because it’s academic in nature like for example: music or something. You can determine the credit value by counting or estimating hours; if you have about seventy-five hours or ninety hours of academics you can call it half a credit. If your child has about a hundred and twenty or more hours of something of academic nature, you might call it a whole credit.

It’s important to remember that this is where double dipping comes in; you don’t want to have any double dipping. What that means is that you don’t use the same hours for two different subjects at the same time. If your child is doing a music class and you want to call it music, if she is doing her voice lessons and piano lessons – you don’t want to call that all music and call it piano and call it voice. You want to choose; each set of a hundred and twenty hours has its own high school credit.

For awards, that just means that they have some special position or notification or commendation--no matter how small. Sometimes those things are going to be tied in to high school credit like when they’re a soloist in a choir, and other times it’s going to be completely separate. If you’re filling out scholarships, maybe they get commended for a scholarship, then you put that on the awards list or they are commended by the national merit scholarship or if they get the national merit scholar semi-finalist, then those are the commendations that you’d put on their awards list, too.

Another example, if you have a martial arts enthusiast – on the transcript it might say “P.E. Martial Arts,” and that could be something that you put on your transcript

every single year; on the activity list it might say something like “Martial Arts 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th,” and they earn their black belt at 12th grade and also they worked as martial arts assistant teacher for 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th. On the volunteer list it might say something different – they were teaching martial arts as an assistant teacher for grade 9 and they had a hundred hours of that; that’s how you would list that on a separate list for volunteer work.

I want to point out this book “How to go to college almost for free.” It’s the book that I found most useful. I got a lot of my information about the activity list from that book. It talks a lot about scholarship strategy, that’s the focus of the book; what he tells you is how to manipulate the activity list to highlight the strengths of the applicant to get better scholarship money.

He suggests that you provide more detail; he even suggests that that is how public and private school students can lengthen their transcript to be more than one page--by having lots and lots of your high school activities listed on your transcript so that they get a more thorough review of the student, because sometimes what happens in the application process is they have so little time to look over each student; sometimes all they do is look at the test scores in the transcript. If you have an activity list, just that little detail on your transcript will help them know your child

One key on your activity list is to have consistent formatting. Keeping consistent formatting for each of the activities that you’re involved with can help as well.

Suggested College-Bound Reading List

College Bound Reading List for Homeschool Students

[Click for Amazon-Linked Reading List](#)

[Click for Printable High School Reading List](#)

Suggested Resource

The Comprehensive Record Solution

Open Doors with The Comprehensive Record Solution

Create comprehensive homeschool records colleges will love.
Easily make transcripts, course descriptions, activity lists and more.
Training, tools and support make comprehensive record preparation a breeze.

Core Modules

- Encourage: motivation to start strong with lots of examples of success
- Equip: downloadable templates and course descriptions to cut and paste
- Educate: eBook training to produce records, additional documentation explained
- Empower: 4 pages of in-depth document reviews by The HomeScholar

Bonuses

1. Transcript Pack: emergency help for making your transcript quickly
2. Planning Pack: planning calendar to keep you on task with college in mind
3. Record Keeping Pack: record keeping and grading explained in detail
4. Silver Training Club: training and support for continuing education provides 5 recorded workshops each month. First 30 days free, then \$27 per month. Cancel anytime.

Surprise Bonuses

1. Emergency Course Description Help: 6 simple steps for frantic parents in a time crunch
2. Total Transcript Solution included free with lifetime access to use with all your children
3. College Admission and Scholarships class: provides a complete overview of the process
4. Beyond Academics: to explain your goals beyond coursework and records

More Bonuses

- Look for surprise bonuses with your purchase, for added value!

Purchase the Comprehensive Record Solution
ComprehensiveRecordSolution.com

Other Online Resources and Homeschool Solutions

[Total Transcript Solution](#): everything you need to solve your transcript worries

[Comprehensive Record Solution](#): create records for college admission and scholarships

[College Launch Solution](#): prepare to successfully launch your teen into college and life

[High School Solution](#): start high school strong and understand every age and stage

[Gold Care Club](#): support and encouragement with personal coaching