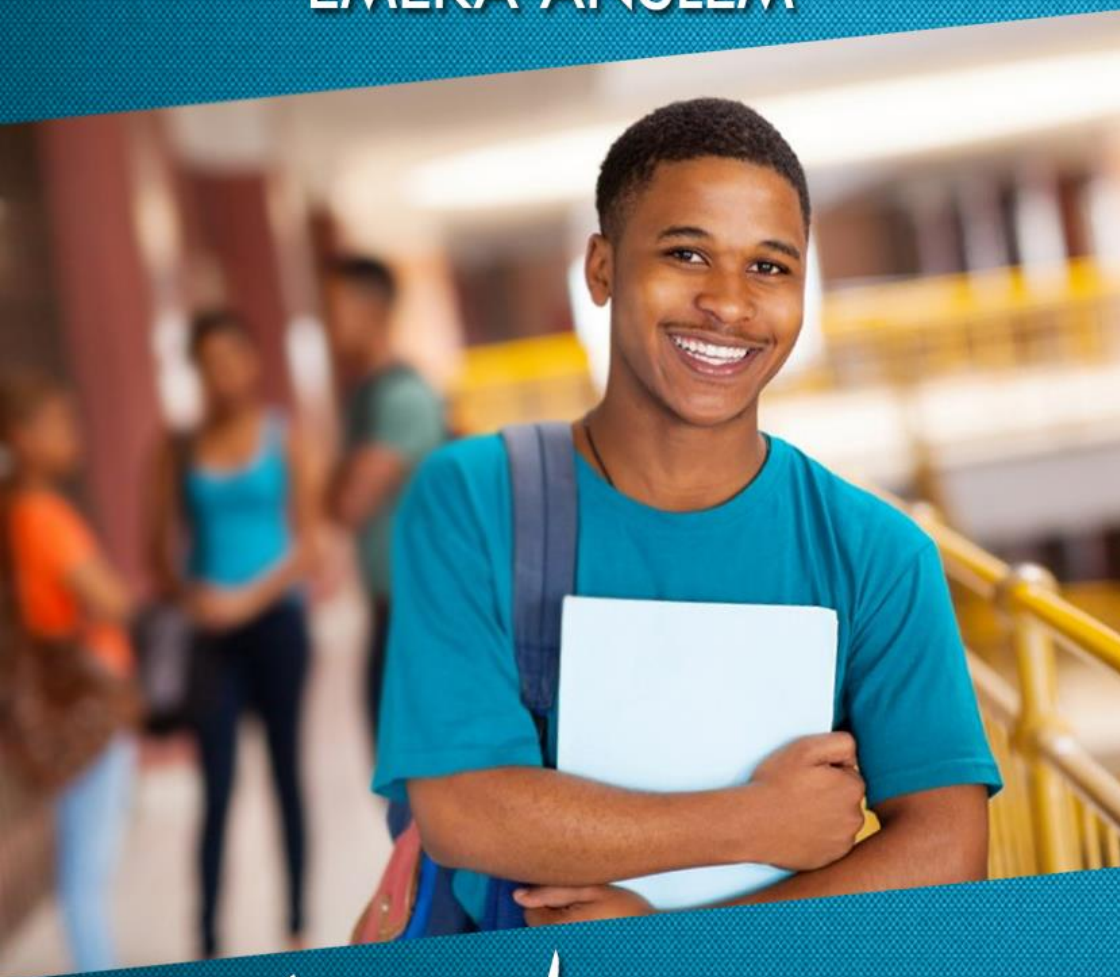


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Academic DRIVE

STUDENTS SHOULD ALSO LEARN HOW TO DRIVE THEIR ACADEMICS

ACADEMIC DRIVE

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JUST BEFORE WE BEGIN...

If you've never driven a car, then get ready, because I'm about to show you how to drive a new tech, it's called "Academics".

And honestly, you really don't need a driving experience, because this book contains a Start-to-Finish Guide. However, you do need a driver's license; and the next few paragraphs will show you how to acquire one.

BE READY...

TO START...

DRIVING YOUR...

ACADEMICS...

AFTER READING...

THIS BOOK...

Alright, now that you've acquired your license, let's begin.

OBSERVE THE “D” SIGN

#Definition

A legend had said that "when the purpose of a thing is not known, abuse is inevitable".

I've had direct interviews with students; those who are already in the University, and also those who are seeking admission into the University. And when you ask them why they study the course they chose, their response is always the same;

BECAUSE I LIKE IT...

Do not engage in anything only because you like it, but because you have defined a purpose for it. Ninety percent of our unemployed graduates today also liked the course they studied, but liking a course is not an assurance for success in life.

I was happy for a student when she told me she was going back to school. And when I asked what course she was studying, she said "Statistics", and that she was going to her 400 Level. Then I asked the next question; what do you plan to do with statistics? Of course, she didn't hesitate to tell me "I'd look for a job with it". And that's why the unemployment rate keeps increasing. Students study what they "like", organizations employ the service of who they've tried.

I won't go to a music school just because I like music, but because I've discovered a flaw in our music industry which I desire to change. Don't study statistics because you like it, rather because you've discovered a fault in our data system, and you want to correct it.

True education is first practical, then applicable to our societies. Bill Gates and Steve Jobs didn't leave school only because there was no fund, but mostly because they were not getting answers to the passion that was burning deep inside them. School was like that for me; I'd finish the course content even before the semester began. And since I couldn't find what I was looking for, it made me ask very complex questions during class lectures. One of my lecturers misunderstood me, and almost failed me in his course.

Mac, and the apple iPhone would not be in existence today if Steve Jobs had stayed in school. I'm not saying going to school is bad, but that he was not getting schooled. And since he wasn't getting schooled in school, he dropped out to school himself. When I started writing inspirational messages in 2011, I really desired to find an inspirational writing school where I could learn how to write with a difference. All I could find was creative and fiction writing, and those are not what I wanted. If you don't know what you want, you may waste your time doing what is not required. After much observation and perseverance, I currently run the first inspirational writers training school. Don't focus on getting a degree, focus on getting an inner release.

Frank Lloyd Wright, America's most celebrated architect spent more time designing colleges than attending them. He was admitted to the university of Wisconsin-Madison in 1886, but after only one year he moved to Chicago and eventually became an apprentice under Louis Sullivan, the "father of modernism". By the time of his passing, Wright's resume included more than 500 works, most famous of which are Fallingwater and New York City's Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum.

As Facebook's popularity exploded, Mark Zuckerberg packed up his bags and relocated to Palo Alto, leaving Harvard behind. That decision has worked for him till date. According to Forbes, Zuckerberg is the youngest billionaire in the world, with a 2010 net worth of 4 billion dollars.

I'm not telling you these stories to discourage you from going to school, but to paint a clear picture of why you should go to school. Go to school because you want to meet a need, not because someone needs you to.

STUDENTS SHOULD FIGHT LIKE SOLDIERS...

Going to school is like going into the ammunition room to arm yourself for the battles ahead. The intensity of the battle would determine the kind of weapons you'd arm yourself with. But unfortunately, many students hide behind the rock of "unemployment" during a battle, because the weapons they carried while in school is not sufficient.

Just as a soldier goes to the ammunition room to pick weapons that will help him fight in a battle, students should also go to school to pick up solutions to visible challenges. Students should be like soldiers, fighting the battles of our nations. But how will they fight for our nations when they are busy fighting to be gainfully employed?

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO CHANGE?

The time of "what would you like to become in the future?" has past; we have entered an era of "what would you like to change now?". What's the use of becoming something that won't effect any change in our society?

Become a lawyer only because as a lawyer you can make certain changes in the society. Education is a journey, a journey towards definite changes. But many people take this

journey without defining what needs to be changed.

School is not a refuse dump where parents just drop their children. A child you just drop in school may be difficult to find when you come back for him. And that's because he would have blended with school activities, and lose his true identity.

HOW TO DEFINE YOUR PURPOSE FOR STUDYING OR BEING EDUCATED...

Defining a reason for going to school or being educated is all about creating a purpose or reason for studying. And we began by saying "when the purpose of a thing is not known, abuse is inevitable". Abuse in that context simply means "using something for a bad purpose". For instance, spending 4 years in school just to join the list of unemployed

people is an abuse to the 4 years you spent in school.

Other students may not get a job after graduation, but a student whose purpose was clearly defined would get a job. This is because, even while he is still in school, his exploits would draw the attention of organizations. Jobs will be waiting for him even before he graduates. I once read a report of how a 21-year old Software Engineering student from Delhi got a job with Uber cab services. He wrote a software that caught their fancy, and they hired him, even while he was still in school. I'm sure you've heard stories like this many times.

Now, let's talk about some key points that will help you define your purpose for studying:

- Identify Your Strengths or Talents:

What you should study is often related to your talent or personal strengths. For instance, if you are strong in learning, it is likely that your life purpose is related to learning. And the more you learn, the more you discover solutions.

- Identify Your Passions:

Your passions are things you do because of love and not because of external reward such as money or recognition. I love to impact knowledge on people. On many occasions, I have had to reject my pay check after delivering a motivational talk. This is not because I do not need the money, but that being able to speak to those people paid me more than the content of my pay check. Your passions would naturally give you fulfillment

even if there is physically nothing to show for it.

- Identify Your Causes or Interests:

Identify the things that matter to you. Is there a condition in the world that makes you feel discontent? Is there a condition that makes you feel the urge to do something about it? For instance, I do not like it when students fail. I always feel failure amongst students is something that can be completely eradicated. If that's the case, then I can study on things that can stop failure among students. This is the difference between "studying for a change" and "studying for a degree".

- Find The Intersection Between Your Strengths, Passions, And Interests:

If you have been able to identify your strengths, passions, and causes, then you can find the intersection between them:

First, pick an interest from your list of interests.

From your list of strengths, pick those that can help you improve the situation in the interest.

From the strengths you pick, find the ones you can develop with enthusiasm.

Teaching is one of my strengths. I can talk and write all day without much stress. And since I despise failure among students, then I can educate myself on effective communication and also grab as much knowledge as I can. Because I'd simply use the teaching strength to change the "students' failure" situation.

You can continue this exercise until you find a cause or interest that has a strong intersection with your strengths and passions. At the end of the exercise, you will find a cause you deeply care about for which you can effectively do something with enthusiasm. What you find would be a clear sign of what you should develop on.

I also like to sing and cook. I've had to make soup for a client's party even when I was physically sick. And that's because no weakness can outshine your strengths from producing. There are days when I'd prefer to walk through a distance that would require a cab, not because I couldn't afford the fare, but because I just wanted to sing. So I'd sing on the road till I reach my destination. I'd like to transform the music industry, I'd love to be

a unique chef, but I'm more interested in stopping the failure among students. And that's why I'd choose to develop my teaching strength over my singing and cooking strengths.

MASTER THE “R” SIGN

#Read

Yes, you really should read. After definition is thorough preparation; and it is reading that gets you prepared, prepared to fix what you've defined.

The classroom is not a place to gain fresh knowledge, but a place to top-up knowledge. A student who stays quiet all through a class lecture is not a student that reads. Many of my lecturers didn't like me because I was always asking questions in class. To be

honest, I wasn't asking those questions to mock them, but I was asking those questions so that I could break through the blocks I encountered while I was reading.

I remember how I will go the school's administrative office to request for my course outline for each semester, so that I can commence my study even before the semester starts. And that's why I always had a question to ask in class.

There were times when I won't know what to study, and I would purposely ask my teachers to give me tough assignments; assignments that will make me anticipate the next class. These days, students and even teachers find classes very boring, mostly because it oftentimes ends as a "TV program"; the students just watch their teacher's

presentation till the class period is over. Surprisingly, when these same students are watching a movie, they can be so passionate that they'd begin to bodily react to the scenes. But in class, they have zero reactions.

If students can start treating class lectures the same way they treat movies, then the result will be outstanding. If you ask a student that just watched a movie to tell you about the movie, you're sure to get a full gist; but try it with the one that just left the classroom, he would tell you that he has to check his book first. When they find a movie very complex, they'd rewind and watch it until they understand. That's how a class lecture should be treated; ask your teachers questions till you understand. I remember how my lesson teacher will remain on one topic for weeks only because I have not understood it. I didn't just pay to be in school, I paid to be schooled;

and I can't be schooled until I understand what is being taught in school.

It is not going to school that prepares you for the future, it is studying. A student is not necessarily a person that goes to school, but a person that submits to rigorous study. School may guide you on what to study, but it is your responsibility to commit to studying. There is a popular saying that "if all you know are the things you were taught, then you know nothing". And that's because, most times, the things we are taught are actually ignitions to commence the real study. Most students dwell on take-home assignments; but no matter how much assignments you take home they won't make you glow. Personally, at some point, take-home assignments were distractions for me; because I always had loads of things to study about.

THERE IS NO MEDICINE FOR KNOWLEDGE...

Read, that's the only medicine for knowledge. What you don't know is what you've not learnt. And if you still don't know it even after you've learnt about it, then it means you need to learn more of it. Some things can be really complex, especially new ideas or subjects; but what reduces their complexity is perseverance in studying about them. For instance, using a computer use to be very complex for me; but my consistent use of it has simplified its usage. I remember how I'd have to look at my keyboard closely before I could type an alphabet, but today I type multiple characters in seconds. That's how life is; whatever is too hard can also become too easy, if only we'd persevere.

BUT WHY SHOULD YOU READ?

1. *Your school or teachers do not have all the information you need:*

They may teach you everything in the school's course outline, but they can't teach you everything you need to know about a subject. As a matter of fact, the things they'd teach you are mostly the things that would help you pass their exams. But passing school exams is not a guarantee for passing life's exams. For instance, most students who prepare for standard exams prepare with past questions of the exam. And that's because the lessons they learnt in school may not be enough to pass.

I remember how we prepared for a particular exam back in school. Most of us studied all-night, only to reach the exam hall and met a

complex and unprecedented kind of question. All the students lamented greatly, including myself; and that made the school to give all the students 40 percent bonus for that course. Surprisingly, when the semester result was released, I had a distinction. Forty percent was a pass mark, and you'd need an extra thirty percent to earn a distinction. That's what personal study does; it lifts you up to the standard. Even though I lamented, I still made efforts to solve the questions, because I had studied about them before the exam.

2. Your school and teachers don't have all the time in the world:

They work with school terms and sessions; they work with class periods. Even if your teachers spends two hours in a class, it will never measure up to the amount of things

you need to cover in a day. Even if they conduct holiday coaching, it still won't cover all you need to know.

CREATE THE “I” SIGN

#Innovate

Do not limit your studies to your course outlines or syllabus; in fact, be limitless while you study. Study anything that has a relationship with your subjects or courses.

To be innovative means to introduce new things. During my secondary school education, I remember how my biology teacher gave the class an assignment to research on the function of "Vitamin P" in the

body. We were all surprised because all we had heard about were Vitamins A, B, C, D, E, & K. More surprising was the fact that Vitamin P really exists; we used a Web-Search service to search out its functions, and yes we found it. That was a breakthrough for all of us; but my journey to the "discovery of new vitamins" began at that moment. I continued the search to see if every letter of the 26 alphabets represented a vitamin. I discovered Vitamins Z & T in the process, alongside many other letters.

There is always something more to what you've learnt. The end of a textbook is never the end of a subject. The textbooks you've finished was a research work of someone; and the fact that it's a research work means that something more can still be searched out about the same subject. Knowledge is like the ocean; you can never see the end of it. The

truth is; there are many topics that you won't find in your textbooks or handouts. And that is why you need to be innovative. Students who weigh the school term or semester by their textbooks or handouts may not stand the test of time. You must have heard that "if all you know are things you were taught, then you know nothing". Let me quickly add that "if all you know are the things in your school textbooks or handouts, then you're just starting".

INTRODUCE SOMETHING...

Every technology we see today is a product of an innovative approach to studying. Their inventors didn't only study to know what was on ground, they also studied to add something to what was on ground.

For instance; vehicle tracker was introduced after vehicles were invented. Someone was probably concerned about the difficulty people face in trying to recover their lost vehicles, then he introduced a vehicle tracker. That's innovation! Someone went through school just to solve mobility issues, and another person went through school just to add security to that solution. If your studying or going through school will not introduce anything, then there is a problem.

One reason why you need to be innovative while studying is because what you need to know may not be in your course outline or syllabus. The reason why Mark Zuckerberg left school was because he could no longer find the things he wanted in school. I'm not saying you should also quit school, but that you're in school to make a change, and if all

that you've been taught is not effecting the change you seek, then introduce new things.

Sometimes, following a regular approach won't get you what you need. You need to consciously try something different. For instance; after I enrolled for a computer training course in the year 2006, understanding the class lectures and practical was really difficult for me. And that was because I had little or no knowledge about using a computer. I had failed 3 exams out of the 7 that was required for the course. My course mates mocked me on a daily basis; I literally became their best computer topic. If they were to write about me in an exam, I'm sure they'd all pass.

However, passing exams wasn't my aim for going to that computer training school; I

wanted to become an ICT Expert. I have a "Painter" personality; I like to see things done, and probably do it myself. Don't just tell me that "a mouse is used to navigate through the computer", show me how it moves through the computer, and also allow me do it myself. Don't just tell me that "a network connect computers together", show me how to create a network and connect computers to it. And that was why I couldn't assimilate the things I was being taught in that class.

When I discovered my learning strength, I quickly met with the senior engineer of the school and requested that he should take me along with him anytime they had a field job. Amazingly, the more I did those field jobs, the better I understood the things I was being taught in the class. It wasn't long before I became the saviour of the class. Innovation

can turn any mockery into a saviour. Imagine, I was a mockery to the class, but as I introduced a new strategy to my learning, I became the saviour of the class. Many people would have quit that program, thinking that they were not wired to study computer courses. But my story proves otherwise; anybody can know just anything, if only they'd apply an innovative approach. If a topic appears too hard to understand, then introduce a pattern that will help you to understand it. Don't tell me you don't have the brain, because the only thing you don't have is the strategy that will work for you.

OBSERVE THE “V” SIGN

#Vision

Vision in this context means; the sense or ability of sight. Something seen ahead, or an object perceived visually.

Having a vision of your destination is vital when it comes to academic excellence. Without a vision of your destination, diversion from your definition is unavoidable. You may successfully define your purpose for

schooling or studying, but if you can't sight the end from the things you are doing, then you may never experience your definition.

Mark Zuckerberg was probably studying computer science in school, but when he sighted the end of the school program, he couldn't see himself aligning with the purpose he defined. And that's why he dropped-out of school. My purpose for attending that computer training school was to become an ICT Expert, but I couldn't see myself becoming one by following the class alone. And that's why I decided to meet the senior engineer for help.

Following through a procedure without a vision of the end may eventually waste your time and resources. Students who see visions of the end of a thing are students who ask

questions like; "Is there a future in what I am doing?", "Will this mathematics give me what I want?", "How will this chemistry help me? ".

If your vision of the end looks bleak, then there is a problem with what you are doing now. And if there is a problem with what you are doing now, all you have to do is make changes. A vision of the end will always save your time.

HOLD ON TO THE “E” SIGN

#Encouragement

Encourage yourself! The academic journey thrives better on your individuality. You may have classmates, or even study partners, but no two partner will ever attain the same result in the end.

The bible wisely says that "two heads are better than one; because when one falls, the other will lift him up". However, if you can't find a second "head", lift yourself.

Education can sometimes be very demanding and challenging; and most of these times, you may not even get someone who will tap your back and say "move on...". But ensure that when these times come, and there is no one to support or encourage you, encourage yourself.

School fees may be delayed, class assignments may become tougher, feeding may become difficult, your health may be challenged, your friends may come against you, your teachers may hate you, but hang on till you succeed. The presence of academic challenges is not a signal for academic impossibility. Steve Jobs had financial issues while he was schooling, and that was mainly why he dropped out. But dropping out of an academic setting didn't mean he dropped out

from education. Education is all about acquiring knowledge; so whether you get it through a formal or an informal system, it's still education. Don't be deceived by the certificates; I've read about how people who couldn't complete their education due to their individual challenges receive honorary certificates from the same school they dropped out from.

In 2007, Harvard, the university Bill Gates dropped out of to pursue the dream of Microsoft, bestowed an honorary degree upon him. The then Harvard University Provost, Steven Hyman, said, “We recognize the most illustrious member of the Harvard College class of 1977 never to have graduated from Harvard. While his classmates, including his friend Steve Ballmer, were busy cramming for midterms, he was planning for a revolution, the rise of the personal computer.

It seems high time that his alma mater hand over the diploma”. He was a “drop-out”, but he still received a certificate in the end. Let me reiterate, if funds cannot push you through a formal school system, then engage an informal system.

DON'T GIVE UP THE DRIVE...

You may faint or get weary on the way, but don't stop. If you can't find who to support or encourage you, then it probably means nobody has attained the height you're pressing towards. But you should also know that the fact that you're alone in the journey doesn't mean you can't make it. Actually, being alone in a journey gives you speed and accuracy. And if that's the case, then being alone is an advantage when it comes to education.

Steve Jobs must have suffered the same fate. If he had stopped schooling because of the financial support he lacked, he probably wouldn't have founded Apple Incorporation, and we probably would not know about the iPhone and iPad today.

NOW THAT YOU KNOW HOW TO DRIVE...

{D-Definition, R-Read, I-Innovate, V-Vision, E-Encouragement}

Start driving! Don't hesitate to reverse and correct every wrong step you have taken. Definition is the principal thing, Reading is vital, Innovation is unavoidable, Vision is expedient, and Encouragement should be at your right hand.

Thank you for reading. Please do not hesitate to contact me through any of the mediums provided in this book. God bless you richly!

Academic DRIVE

It is not going to school that prepares you for the future, it is studying. A student is not necessarily a person that goes to school, but a person that submits to rigorous study. School may guide you on what to study, but it is your responsibility to commit to studying. There is a popular saying that "if all you know are the things you were taught, then you know nothing". And that's because, most times, the things we are taught are actually ignitions to commence the real study. This book will show you to drive through your academics.
