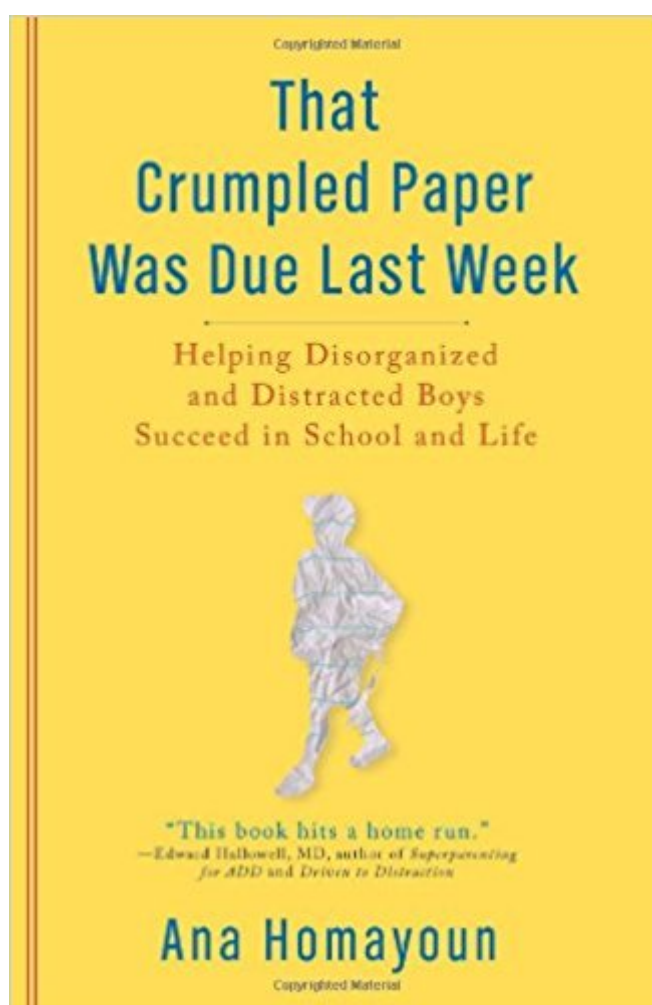


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# That Crumpled Paper Was Due Last Week: Helping Disorganized And Distracted Boys Succeed In School And Life



## Synopsis

At last, the solution for getting disorganized boys back on track. Missed assignments. Lack of focus and enthusiasm. Falling grades. For too many boys and their frustrated parents, these are the facts of life. But they don't have to be. Top academic counselor Ana Homayoun has helped turn even the most disorganized, scattered, and unfocused boys into successful young people who consistently meet their personal and academic challenges. She does this by getting back to basics--starting with a simple fact: Most boys need to be taught how to get organized, how to study, and--most important--how to visualize, embrace and meet their own goals. With an accessible and no-nonsense approach, Homayoun shows how to: Identify their son's dis-organizational style Help him set academic and personal goals he cares about Design and establish the right "tools of the trade" Complete assignments without pulling all-nighters Help him tune out social pressure and fend off anxiety Much more than a study guide, this insightful, user-friendly book provides a road map for the success too many boys have trouble finding--in school and in life.

## Book Information

Paperback: 304 pages

Publisher: TarcherPerigee; 1 edition (January 5, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0399535594

ISBN-13: 978-0399535598

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.8 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 68 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #65,503 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #61 in Books > Parenting & Relationships > Parenting > School-Age Children #67 in Books > Parenting & Relationships > Parenting > Parenting Boys #72 in Books > Education & Teaching > Schools & Teaching > Parent Participation

## Customer Reviews

Homayoun, an educational consultant, has seen plenty of boys who score high on standardized tests but earn poor grades. Often the reason is that boys are not as good as girls at multitasking, a crucial skill that requires organization. She reports complaints from parents of boys chronically losing homework, forgetting tests, and not turning in assignments. She cites research on differences in how girls and boys learn, and examines them in the context of the distractions of technology, from

video games to the Internet. Homayoun also looks at contributing factors, from sleep deprivation to overly involved parents. She helps parents to identify the particular style of their son's disorganization--procrastinator, scatterbrain, slacker, underachiever--and how to tailor a program that will help him. Among the suggestions: goal setting, self-competition, breaking down tasks into steps, scheduling to avoid stress and manage extracurricular activities, and using an assortment of tools, including binders and planners. Helpful advice for parents struggling with disorganized boys--or girls. --Vanessa Bush

"That Crumpled Paper Was Due Last Week provides an innovative and practical approach to helping boys find success. Ana Homayoun presents straightforward, easily implementable solutions that will help transform the lives of boys and parents. A wonderful read!" -Michael Gurian, author of *The Wonder of Boys* and *The Minds of Boys* "Ana Homayoun gets it! Combining an extraordinary feel for what boys face in schools these days with an enormously shrewd, practical sets of tips on how to get organized and excel, this book hits a home run. All parents and teachers as well as students (yes, I think girls could find it useful, too!) will find that this book makes school less of a struggle and more of a pleasure. Brief, to-the-point, and clear, this book is an invaluable, unique tool." -Edward Hallowell, M.D., author of *Super Parenting for ADD* and *Driven to Distraction* "Filled with practical advice for the parents of disorganized boys (and that's an awful lot of young boys), Ana Homayoun's *That Crumpled Paper Was Due Last Week* teaches us how to help our sons navigate through a school environment that is less than kind to distracted and disorganized young men." -Madeline Levine, Ph.D., Author of *The Price of Privilege* "Homayoun, an educational consultant, has seen plenty of boys who score high on standardized tests but earn poor grades. Often the reason is that boys are not as good as girls at multitasking, a crucial skill that requires organization. She reports complaints from parents of boys chronically losing homework, forgetting tests, and not turning in assignments. She cites research on differences in how girls and boys learn, and examines them in the context of the distractions of technology, from video games to the Internet. Homayoun also looks at contributing factors, from sleep deprivation to overly involved parents. She helps parents to identify the particular style of their son's disorganization--procrastinator, scatterbrain, slacker, underachiever--and how to tailor a program that will help him. Among the suggestions: goal setting, self-competition, breaking down tasks into steps, scheduling to avoid stress and manage extracurricular activities, and using an assortment of tools, including binders and planners. Helpful advice for parents struggling with disorganized boys--or girls." -Vanessa Bush, Booklist December 2009

Ana Homayoun's book is a life saver if you have a kid who needs some help with organizing his or her responsibility with respect to homework. It's a fast read and packed with plenty of guidance to help you help your child with organizing their schoolwork. Her system is not overburdened with lists, notes, files, blah, blah, blah, just good practical advice and the results are your child will develop a much greater sense of responsibility and organization, not just about his or her schoolwork, but with chores and other tasks in general - an excellent life skill essential for anyone. I read this over the summer and put it to use with my son who couldn't seem to keep track of homework assignments, paperwork, projects, instructions, etc. His backpack looked like a garbage can had vomited all over it. I met with his teachers to understand their expectations for organization (most teachers have their own system) and easily worked out something that would complement both of our efforts. After a few months, my son is now on top this all on his own and we don't have the arguments and stress about missed and/or incomplete assignments. On the major plus side, he is also much more methodical about his chores and even his desk is significantly more tidy. It was not without some angst getting this going, my son can be quite stubborn, but if you persevere, you will be rewarded and your child will find their schoolwork to be much less stress!!

If you've bought this book, you're probably at your wit's end when it comes to dealing with homework issues. This book provided a number of practical tactics and strategies with a nice dose of humor. Of course, at the end of the day, the strategies are only as good as their implementation, and the suggestions on that -- including the discipline of blocking out a certain amount of time each day for study -- are good. I noted that many of the strategies recommended are the ones that are forced on students at boarding schools (blocked off time for study halls with limited access to technology, for example). My son bought into the strategies but is still struggling with making them his reality. This at least started the discussion, though, on what needs to be done, and the book emphasized that the road to success on this isn't entirely straight...

Just finished reading it a few weeks ago, so the long-term benefit to my child remains to be seen, but I can see a difference already. The big revelation is seeing how my attitude affects his attitude. Being more positive and giving him strategies to succeed on his own has improved his confidence. His grades have improved overall, and the one class where he still struggles he is making every effort to pass the last marking period, all because he believes he can succeed. Thank you for writing such a comprehensive and truly insightful book! If you ever write a book about strategies to get your

kid to keep his room clean I'll be the first one to buy it :-)

Full of good advice. People I work with feel that many suggestions work best for middle schoolers. Probably true, but I always glean to see what I can learn.

Moms and Dads of boys -- please oh please read this. You'll save tearing your hair out.

Great tips for breaking goals down in a way that a middle schooler can manage. Using these techniques, we were able to identify usable tools that help reduce the stress of being disorganized. When you read it, it all sounds like common sense. The book puts these common sense solutions in their full context, making it easier to achieve success.

Starts with a great introduction as to the different types and reasons why boys struggle. Then filled with various techniques to help those struggling boys get organized so they feel less overwhelmed and more in control of their own abilities and outcomes. Recommend to anyone with a teen or preteen boy to help them learn the organizational skills needed in life.

Ok, so I'm rating the book based on having read it cover-to-cover, but I haven't actually implemented Ms. Hodayoun's advice in our household quite yet. My pre-teen is just starting 6th grade this fall, and so the idea of separate binders for each subject is probably not going to work yet this year, but it's definitely something to try in the future. So maybe I'll come back and re-rate this book after putting the advice into action! From what I've read, this sounds like it could be the breakthrough our family needs to get our kids on-track. I especially love that the first thing parents are instructed to do is to sit down with our boys and let them do some dreamcasting. What are HIS goals and dreams? And good discussions about the little and big steps needed to make them a reality. Easy-to-read book, with all the steps laid out clearly, and easy to reference later.

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