

## SMART Goal Setting

Here are some tips that can help you set effective goals:

1. Develop several goals. A list of five to seven items gives you several things to work on over a period of time.
2. State goals as declarations of intention, not items on a wish list. "I want to apply to three schools" lacks power. "I will apply to three schools," is intentional and powerful.
3. Attach a date to each goal. State what you intend to accomplish and by when. A good list should include some short-term and some long-term goals. You may want a few goals for the year, and some for two- or three- month intervals.
4. Be specific. "To find a job" is too general; "to find and research five job openings before the end of the month" is better. Sometimes a more general goal can become the long-term aim, and you can identify some more specific goals to take you there.
5. Share your goals with someone who cares if you reach them. Sharing your intentions with your parents, your best friend, or your teacher will help ensure success.
6. Write down your goals and put them where you will see them. The more often you read your list, the more results you get.
7. Review and revise your list. Experiment with different ways of stating your goals. Goal setting improves with practice, so play around with it.

Following are components of an effective goal - one that describes performance standards that will "tell us what good behavior looks like." The SMART acronym can help us remember these components.

*Use the SMART acronym to change the given goal into a SMART goal.*

Component	Description	Example
Specific	The goals should identify a specific action or event that will take place.	Goal: to get accepted to college
Measurable	The goal and its benefits should be quantifiable.	
Achievable	The goal should be attainable given available resources.	
Realistic	The goal should require you to stretch some, but allow the likelihood of success.	
Timely	The goal should state the time period in which it will be accomplished.	

**SMART Goals Worksheet**  
**(Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Timely)**

Goal Statement (be sure to include all SMART components):

What do I need to do to reach this goal?

Where am I now?

Obstacles:

Solutions:

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