

Freshmen
January 10, 2017

Objective: Students will understand that in high school they will be expected to know when they do not understand a concept or cannot perform a skill and to proactively ask for help.

Resources Needed for this Activity:

- Steve’s story (Copy in your box)

Assignment(s):

Assignment	Standard(s)	Points	Assigned	Due
Intro to Seeking Help in HS	CS.PS.01 Identify problems and locate information that may lead to solutions.	5	1/10/17	1/10/17

Opening: 5 minutes – Students are asked to raise their hands if a teacher has ever asked if they understood something in class and they nodded their heads ‘yes’ even though they didn’t really understand the concept. The advisor asks students who raised their hands and are willing to comment why they nodded without really understanding. The advisor asks students to comment on what might happen if they need help but do not ask for it.

The advisor concludes this brief discussion by pointing out that if students are going to reach college readiness, they need to monitor and be honest about what they do and do not understand and they need to ask for help when they need it.

Activity: The advisor reads out loud **Steve’s Story**, a short story about a high school freshman who is in math class and repeatedly rationalizes reasons not to ask for help and eventually gets into a deep hole.

After reading this story, the advisor should put the following questions on the screen or pose them to the class for discussion:

1. Steve uses a number of avoidance tactics in not asking for help (e.g., telling a classmate he didn’t try on the quiz, using his calculator to look busy). What are things that you have done or seen others do in class to avoid seeking help?
2. What do you think would have happened if Steve’s teacher had not given the pop quiz and noticed that Steve didn’t understand what was happening in class?
3. Would you have asked for help earlier than Steve? When would you have asked for help? Who would you have asked? How would you have done it?

Now we are going to discuss ways to seek help in high school. Have students volunteer suggestions for ways to get assistance. Make sure the ending list includes at least the following:

- Talking directly with teachers
- Use RIE time to get help from teachers

Seeking Help in High School

- Talk to your counselor
- Stay after school to get help
- Talk to your AG teacher
- Use Pinnacle to track grades and follow up with teachers
- Talk to a trusted adult in the school
- Ask a friend for help
- Math: Attend one of the before/after school tutoring sessions