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What Now? An Uncensored Guide to School and Life
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Dear parents of school-aged children,

I am reaching out to you because I recently self-published the enclosed handbook for teens, ages 16 to 22, titled *What Now? An Uncensored Guide to School and Life*. I am a Fairfax County resident and father of five teens from the ages of 13 to 21, who all have attended or are attending Fairfax County Public Schools. The oldest three, along with myself, are enrolled at George Mason University.

The enclosed complimentary book is a tool that you may be able to utilize in guiding your adolescent on their life journey. I wrote the book to try and encourage and motivate today's youth in a way that they can understand how important it is for them to start thinking strategically, be prioritizing the right things, and being able to recognize and focus on the opportunities that are continually coming their way.

Additionally, I am sure that many parents would benefit from my perspective of the current state of education and what lies ahead for them and their children based on how society and the educational system has changed due to political and technological influences.

As parents of today's adolescents we are being confronted with unprecedented challenges and influences on us and our children as we try to keep them directed on a path for an enriched and rewarding life. We can see that there are many opportunities for them if they can mature and stay on track with the wherewithal to avoid the many distractions and hazards along the way.

The most important take away is for teens to be able to understand that more doors will open for them if they can conduct themselves in a mature manner. More specifically, how they need to act in a mature manner now so they will be able to get a security clearance with its great job opportunities and higher rates of pay in the very near future.

As a quick primer to the book's content, I suggest the following sections and passages:

Beyond the college experience	p. 181-6	Creativity	p. 16, 83,
Books	p. 109	88, 106, 121, 294, 307	
Brain - your processor	p. 15	Critical thinking	p. 15, 17,
Computer programming	p. 42	21, 41, 46, 56, 83-4, 88,	
Concussions	p. 233-4		

106, 110-1, 113, 117, 154, 188, 203, 247, 267		Music	p. 26-8
Curiosity	p. 17, 55,	Quoting Holden Caulfield...	p. 59
73, 187		Reading	p. 56
Dopamine - Parts I and II	p. 245,	School transparency	p. 149
274-5		Schools	p.299-302
Executive Function	p. 21	Security Clearances	p.130-4
Grades	p. 110-1	Sports in school	p. 34,
Hand-eye coordination	p. 45	258-61	
Handwriting and cursive	p. 111	Teachers - Part I	p. 117-8
High tech today and tomorrow	p. 123-7	The leadership has enacted...	p. 116-7
It is very confusing to try...	p. 96	This concept of anticipating...	p. 182
Language	p. 52-3	Typing	p. 58
Moving on to today's...	p.113-7	You and your educational...	p. 103-9
		Warning: Something is amiss...	p.154-9

I received my first press run of 15,000 copies in June so I could promote it at the national convention of the American Libraries Association, the weekend of June 21 to 24. The book was very well received and I signed hundreds of copies for attendees.

Please be aware that, at the end of the book, I editorialize about the state of K-12 as well as college education.

I also comment on the state of colleges today in Chapter Two titled Phases of Life; Education, Career, Timing, Alternatives, and Beyond. I try to warn the teens about what they are entering into and how college compares today with when we were in school, why it has changed, and what they need to pay attention to in order to come out as winners and not financial losers.

As a handbook, it does not have to be read from beginning to end. I advise older adults to start with Chapters Five and Six because the topics may be of a more personal interest. Chapter Two, titled Phases of Life, is a good place for students to start.

If you would like to contact me my cell phone number is 703-973-8102 and my email address is cdecarlo@whatnowteens.com.

Enjoy,



Chris DeCarlo