

How to Gamify School Tasks

Before we get to the list, here are some general gaming-inspired guidelines:

1. Use Points!
2. Make it visible.
3. Play with friends.
4. Keep it short term.
5. Make it a little weird.

Gamify School Tasks Ideas:

- Play “beat the clock.” Set a timer for a short amount of time. Decide what you’re going to do with that time. Then, try to beat the clock! Some of my students have had a fun time doing this with the forest app (forestapp.cc).
- Transfer your habit tracker to a big whiteboard where not only you, but others can see it. Assign fun rewards for showing improvement in different areas each week. Get a friend or family member involved to do the same and support each other. Make the reward you both receive dependent on mutual success so you are even more motivated.
- Share a note-taking document with a friend in class and take notes at the same time on it. Have one person take notes on the information and the other person add possible test/quiz questions in the comments on the side.
- Wear something weird like a costume or a big hat when you sit down to do homework. I have no idea why this one works, but it does!
- Use the habitica app (habitica.com) to organize your habits and tasks but with lots of fun options for a fun role playing game.
- Set up different stations around the house for your different subject homework tasks. Then, hop around to each after short timed intervals, cycling through until it all gets done. Math problems in the bathtub, history questions at the kitchen counter, essay outlining on the floor of your room...
- Use the website Written? Kitten! (writtenkitten.co) to get rewarded with a cute picture of a kitten, bunny, or puppy, you choose!, for every 100 words you write.
- Take on the persona of an expert in the field you are studying or reading. Exaggerate it, read out loud in the voice, walk around and gesture like a mad professor, put on a lab coat while you work through chem problems.
- Use a crossword puzzle generator like crosswordlabs.com to study course terms and definitions.
- Play pictictionary with a friend based on concepts you need to know for a test. One person tries to draw the concept (a scene from a book, a scientific principle or process, an important event in history) and the other person tries to guess it in a set amount of time.
- Use IXL.com to practice math and grammar skills with real time feedback and correction.