



# Online Course for Week #2

**Part I.** Read Chapter 3 in *Teens Can Make It Happen* to the bottom of page 54. Fill in these answers with what you wrote in your book.

1. From page 45, "What gives your life meaning? When do you feel most energized, alive?"

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2. Stedman Graham says again and again in this book that **EVERYONE** has a special talent, ability or interest that can be developed to make their life more fulfilling, more fun and more interesting (and often can lead to a career that is fun and profitable). **Look at this list and choose 3 or more things that you are 'better than most people' at.**

- \* *meeting new people*
- \* *organizing things (rooms, files, 'stuff')*
- \* *organizing people to do things (parties, events, activities)*
- \* *fixing machines (cars, vacuum cleaners, tv sets, etc.)*
- \* *building or fixing structures (houses, cabinets, decks, etc.)*
- \* *making things look good (painting, decorating, art, photography, etc.)*
- \* *convincing people to do something*
- \* *making people laugh*
- \* *being tough enough to stick with difficult things to the end*  
(football, long distance running, doing your homework all the time, etc.)
- \* *cooking or baking*
- \* *singing or playing an instrument*
- \* *taking care of small children*
- \* *helping people understand new ideas*
- \* *understanding fashion and what makes people look good (clothes, make up, hair)*
- \* *being calm in an emergency*
- \* *managing money*
- \* *creating solutions to problems*
- \* *finding information and contacts*
- \* *being patient*
- \* *not being bored with repetitious tasks*
- \* *making new ways to do a task so that it is faster or more efficient*
- \* *making people feel better or more comfortable by talking with them*
- \* *being energetic*
- \* *being curious*
- \* *being flexible and able to change when situations change suddenly*

Others \_\_\_\_\_



3. Sometimes our ability, talent or interest isn't something that is appreciated in a school setting. For example, making friends and being able to talk to anyone is a skill, but it often gets people in trouble at school. However, there are many different kinds of jobs/careers where those talents are needed and appreciated.

Go to the GCIS website (<http://www.gcic.peachnet.edu/> user name: gdolgmwia and password: gcis5200) and take the SKILLS ASSESSMENT. This test matches your natural skills, abilities and interests to jobs. After you finish the test, look at the Holland Code page which tells you your strengths, and then the Top 30 Occupations. The higher the number next to the occupation, the better match it is for your skills. Take some time to look at some of the occupations on your list, especially ones that you have never heard of before. All of the occupations have a link to more information including wages, or training needed and often even a list of places in Georgia where you can get that training.

List two occupations on this list that you had never heard of before:

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List two occupations that you might like to learn more about:

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***If you would be interested in meeting someone who works in that type of job or visiting a training program, talk to your Counselor! We may be able to arrange that for you!***

4. On page 49, Mr. Graham asks, "What are ways that you take responsibility for your life?" In this question, he is asking you to think about ways that you 'make things happen' in your own life, and also ways that you accept responsibility when things don't get done or when mistakes are made.

For example, if you double check that your cell phone bill is paid on time, you are taking responsibility for that part of your financial situation. Also, if you don't turn in your math homework for a full three months and then fail the math class, you understand that the failing grade is your problem, and you don't blame the teacher or your parents for not reminding you.

Taking responsibility is not always pleasant (that math example was me in high school!), but the more responsibility you take, the more power you have over your own life.



For each of these life areas, list one way that you already take responsibility, and one way that you could take responsibility now.

A. Your finances/money: (*examples: have a savings fund, pay my own phone bill, look for sales on items I want, have a checking account, don't borrow or bum money from friends, etc.*)

I already take responsibility by \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I could take more responsibility by \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

B. My health and happiness (*examples: eat healthy foods most of the time, use birth control and practice safe sex, spend my time with people who are good for me, participate in a sport that I enjoy, avoid substances that hurt my body*)

I already take responsibility by \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I could take more responsibility by \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Did you have an answer for the question on page 51, "What is it that you would do with your life even if you didn't get paid for it?" If so, what was your answer?

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If you had trouble thinking of an answer for this one, don't stress too much about it. Sometimes people have many things that they like to do, but can't think of the one great passion of their life until they've tried many things. Often people like that end up combining two or three things they like to do into one great passion. For example, I know a woman who always was involved in raising money for different charities, and she also loved to sew. It took years for these two things to combine into one 'passion' which was organizing sewers to make baby clothes for charities.



So, if you can't think of one great passion to list in the answer above, list a couple of things you like or are interested in. They may combine later in ways you never expected and grow into a passion.

6. In the box on page 52, Mr. Graham gives his definition of a dream again.

**“To dream is different from fantasizing. To dream is to envision the possibility that something is not only desirable, but attainable, based on who you are, and where you can go in life.”**

A 'dream', according to this definition, is specific to YOU. What you like, what you are good at, and what you enjoy will make your dream different from the dreams of anyone else in the world. If you hate science and math, but dream of becoming a doctor, you are saying that you want to be miserable for the rest of your life because science and math are the field of medicine. If you love to bake and make the best cakes, you will be a miserable super model because super models are always on a diet. *What is one FANTASY that you can throw out now that you have thought about being happy and using the skills and interests that come naturally for you?*

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