

Starting Strong Homeschooling Freshman and Sophomore Year



**Please turn on
your speakers**

Lee Binz, The HomeScholar



Guidance Counselor Basics

Guidance Counselor Basics

- Freshman Year
 - 9th grade
 - Approximate ages 14-15
- Your Goal
 - Think about college
 - Learn about high school
 - Work at their level in every subject



Guidance Counselor Basics

- Sophomore Year
 - 10th grade
 - Approximate ages 15-16
- Your Goal
 - Begin to prepare for college
 - Include foreign language
 - Take the PSAT for fun



Changing Role of Parents

- Four Seasons of Homeschooling
 - Caretaker
 - Teacher
 - Mentor
 - Friend
- During these years, transition from Teacher to Mentor



Understand Local Homeschool Law

- Know your local laws
- Learn to homeschool high school
- Look ahead to college





Plan Courses

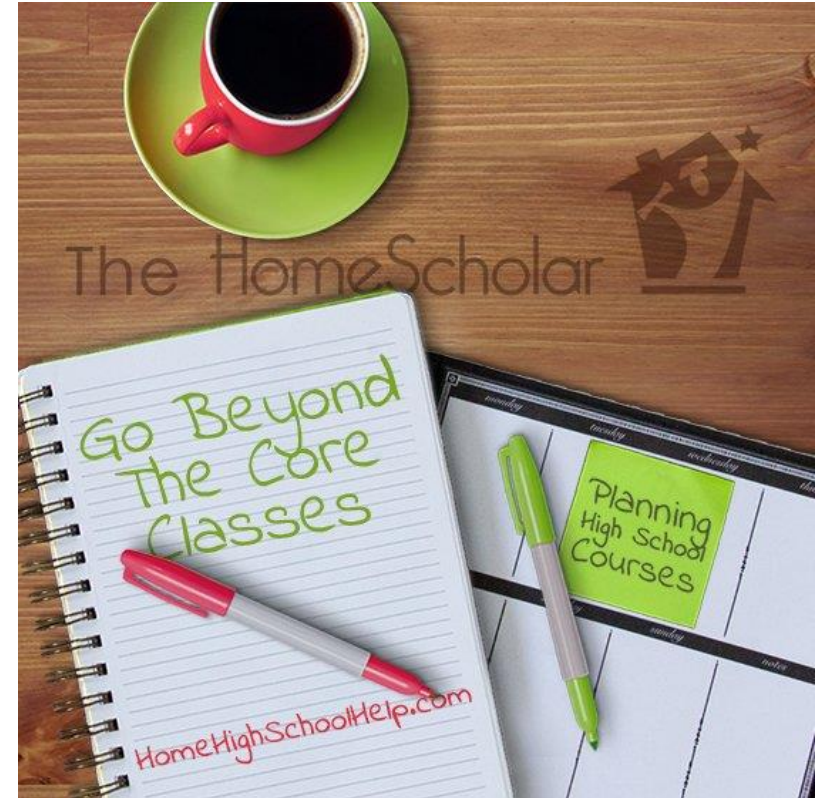
Cover the Core

- English: one credit each year
 - Reading, writing at their level
- Math: one credit yearly
 - Work at their math level
- Social Studies
 - American and World History
 - Economics and Government
- Science: start with biology with lab



Beyond the Basics

- Foreign language
 - 2-4 years of 1 language
- Physical Education
 - 2 credit may be required
 - Physically active: count credits
- Fine Art: music, art, theater, dance
 - 1 credit or more

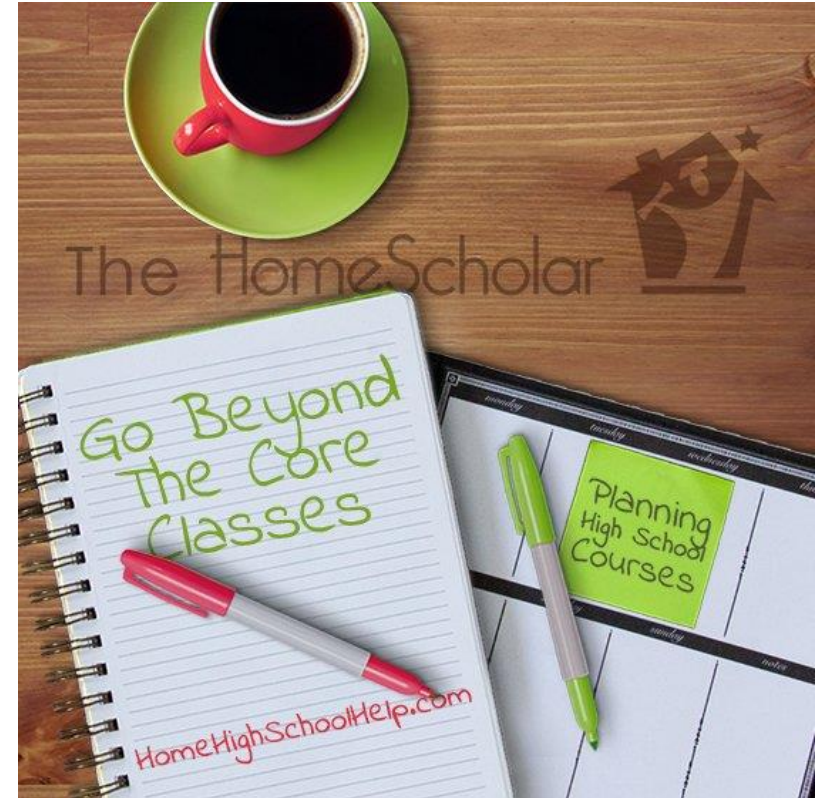


High School Electives

Provide enough electives to total 22-24 or more credits.

Sources of electives:

1. Required by state law
2. Required by parents
3. Earned by delight directed learning





Create Records

Record Keeping

- Perfect record keeping isn't perfectly tidy
- Keep records in a way that fits you
- Planners and organizers aren't necessary
- Keeping records is necessary



Homeschool Transcript

Official homeschool transcript

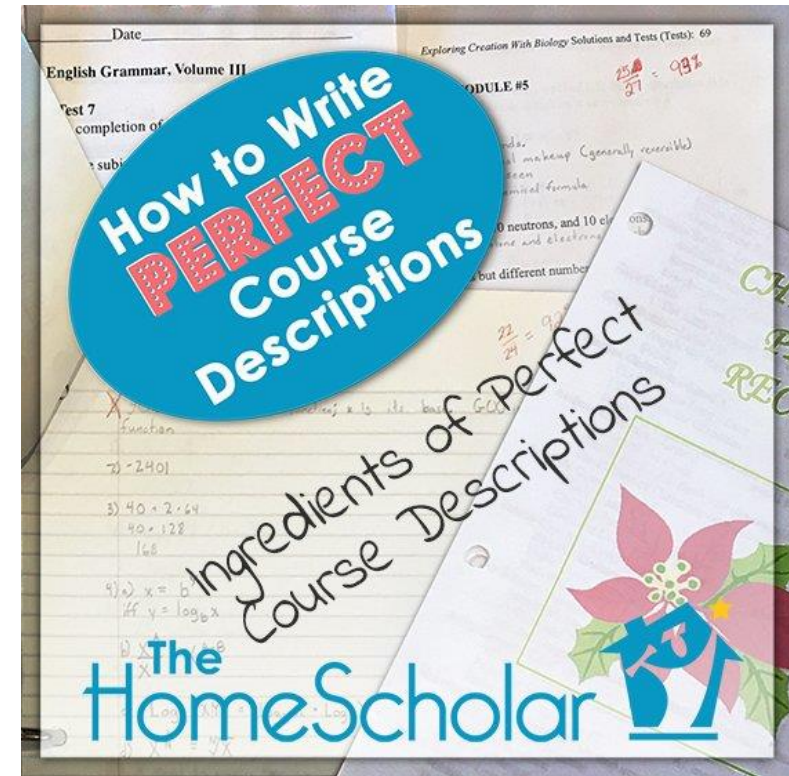
- One page abbreviated overview
- Class title, credit value, and grade
- Abbreviated activity list
- 9th grade for summer camps
- 10th grade for car insurance



Course Descriptions

Ingredients of a course description

1. Paragraph of what you did
 2. List of what you used
 3. Explanation of how you graded
- No more than 1 page per class



Comprehensive Records

- Update each spring
 - You'll know what you have done
 - Don't record what was not done
- Reading List
- Activity List
- Supplemental information





Understand Tests

Understand Tests

- Annual standardized test
 - Experience and practice
 - Iowa Basic, ITBS, CAT, PSAT-9
- Helps estimate transcript grades
- Experience filling in bubbles
- Practice with timed tests
- Testing around strangers



Understand Tests

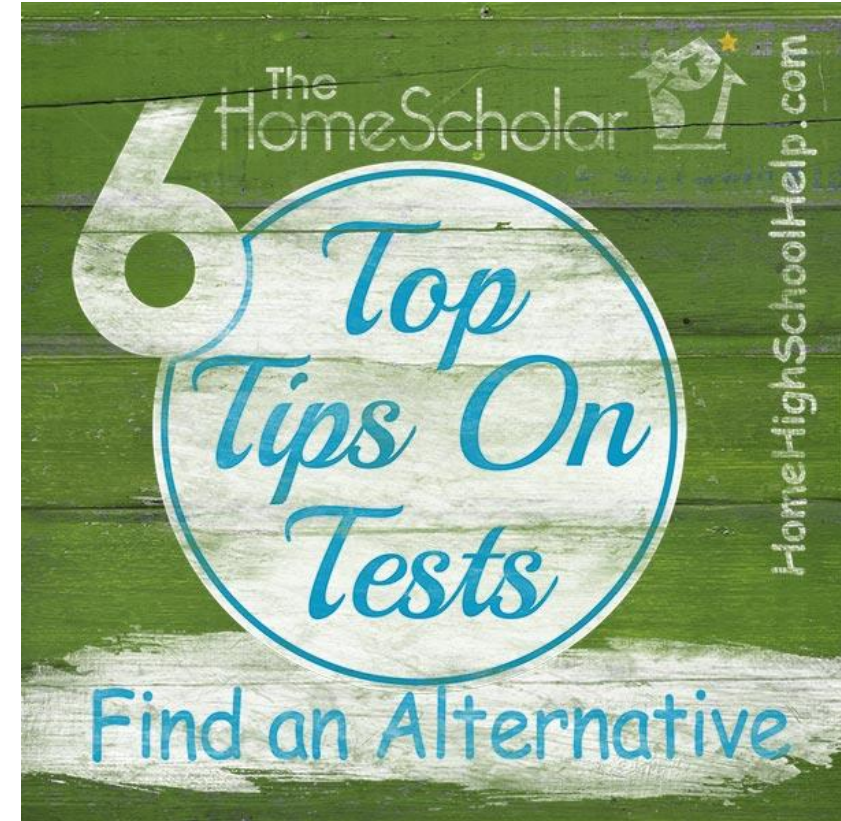
- PSAT for Fun in 10th grade
- Test in October
- Reading, writing, math
- PSAT is the “starting point” for test preparation and study



Understand Tests

1. Choose the right test for your child

- SAT
- ACT
- CLT



Understand Tests

2. Avoid Test Anxiety

- Avoid over-testing
- Avoid early test prep
- Use grade level tests for comparison in 9th grade



Understand Tests

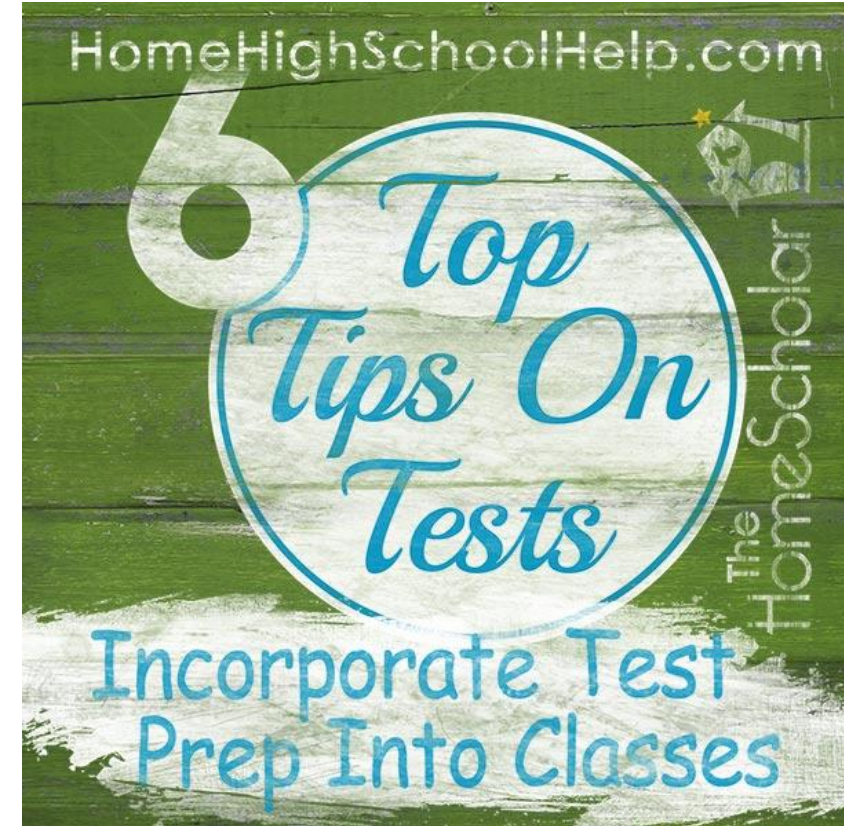
3. Focus on literacy in 9th grade

- Reading
- Writing
- Basic math skills
- Penmanship
- Vocabulary
- Study skills



Understand Tests

4. Incorporate test prep into classes
 - Begin test prep in 10th grade
 - Reading, writing, math
 - Replace English workbooks
 - Moderate amount of time each day



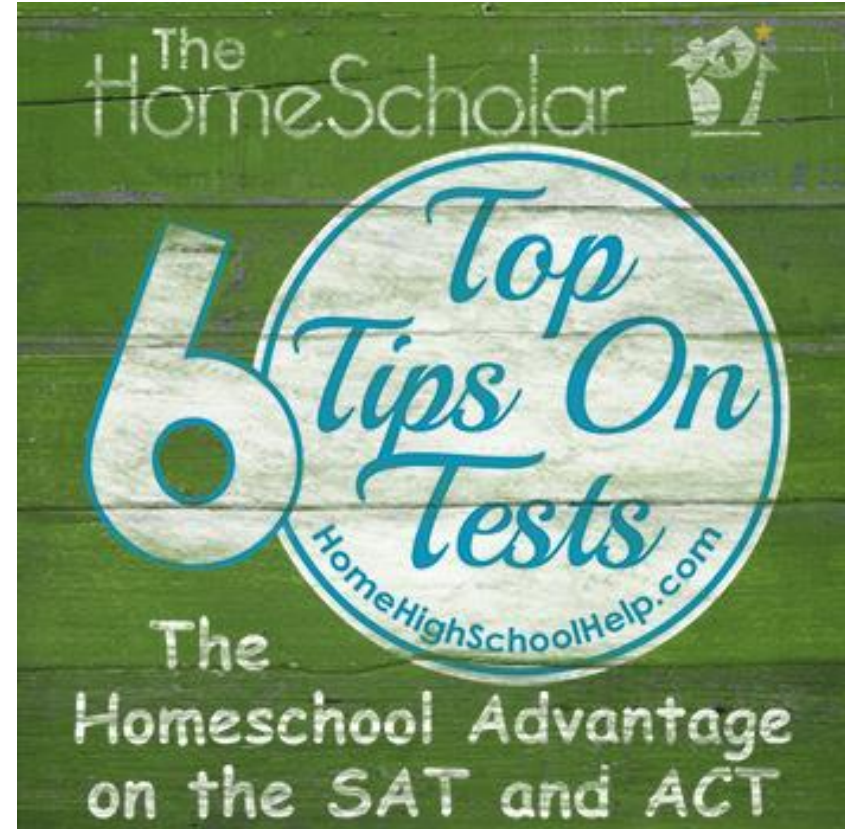
Understand Tests

5. Use homeschool skills to motivate
- Sweet treats
 - Seek accommodation
 - Use a timer
 - Read real books



Understand Tests

6. Invest in test prep for college
 - Test scores are closely tied to admission and scholarships
 - Schedule test preparation
 - Use real sample tests
 - 2-4 times each week





Avoid Common Traps

Have Reasonable Expectations

- Maturation occurs over 4 years
 - Gradual increase in abilities, organizational skills, responsibility, self-motivation, self-direction
- Balance sleep needs and exhaustion
- Teach for mastery, not perfection
- Natural consequences if appropriate



Maturation and Motivation

1. Do be sure to keep reasonable hours
2. Do plan appropriate curriculum
3. Do plan for increased sleep needs
4. Do be sure to mix active and seated work
5. Do be sure of reasonable expectations
6. Do be sure it's challenging not boring
7. Do be sure it would be doable for you
8. Do be sure you don't expect perfection
9. Do be flexible, homeschooling is not a race
10. Do be sure you have a back up plan



Set Technology Boundaries

New world of parenting problems

- Balance online education with non-digital coursework
- Balance free time spent online
- Consider social media safety



Set Technology Boundaries

Suggested boundaries

- One hour on games
- Set a time for playing online
- No technology or cell phone in the bedroom, bathroom, or mealtimes
- Parents possess all passwords



Important Technology Discussions

- Internet addiction
- Personal safety
- Future consequences
 - Everything online is public
 - Everything online is forever
 - Consequences of posting or sharing inappropriately



Stay Strong Sophomore Year

- Be sure to start foreign language
- Take the PSAT for fun in 10th grade
- Decide between SAT or ACT
- Start studying for SAT or ACT
- Consider Subject Tests
 - SAT Subject Test
 - AP Class or AP Exam
 - CLEP Exam

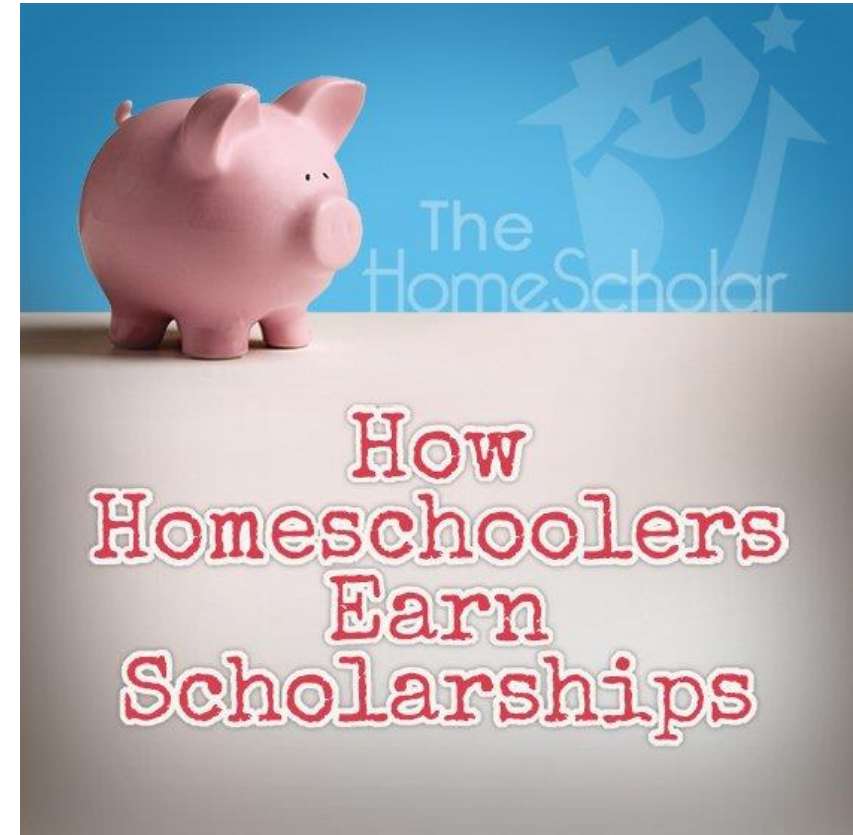




Plan College Financing

Understand Financing

- Set money aside
- Learn about college savings
 - Consult an accountant or banker
 - Read Dave Ramsey
 - Investigate 529 Plans
- Student can earn and save money
- Teach a strong work ethic



Earn Scholarships

- Choose colleges to apply
 - Reach
 - Fit
 - Safety
- Apply to 4-8 colleges
- Public and private schools



REACH SCHOOL

SAT or ACT score average is higher than yours or school is highly selective.

You meet the college requirements.

FIT SCHOOL

SAT or ACT score average is about the same as yours.

You meet the college requirements.

SAFETY SCHOOL

SAT or ACT score average is less than yours.

You exceed the college requirements.

Earn Scholarships

1. Rigorous education
2. Professional transcript
3. Course descriptions
4. SAT or ACT preparation
5. Genuine activities
6. Letters of recommendation
7. College visits
8. Timely application
9. Great application essays



**Your
SAT or ACT
Score**

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Encourage Activities

Activities and Leadership

- Activities build a resume
- Activities improve admission
- Volunteering, leadership, and work
- Technology can be impediment
- Find passion and interests



Investigate Careers

- Read books about careers
- Find assessment tools
- College fairs and discussion
- Employment and self-discovery
- “Field testing” careers
- Entrepreneur experiences
- Find mentors with interests



Extra Credit for Sophomore Year

- Research future dual enrollment
- Attend a college fair
- Visit colleges in the spring





Big Ideas for Success

Big Idea for Success #1

Seek Balance

- Put weakest areas first
- Have a morning meeting
 - Morning meeting motivation
 - Daily time of reflection
 - Regular meeting with friends
 - Margin and self-care



Big Idea for Success #2

Remain Calm

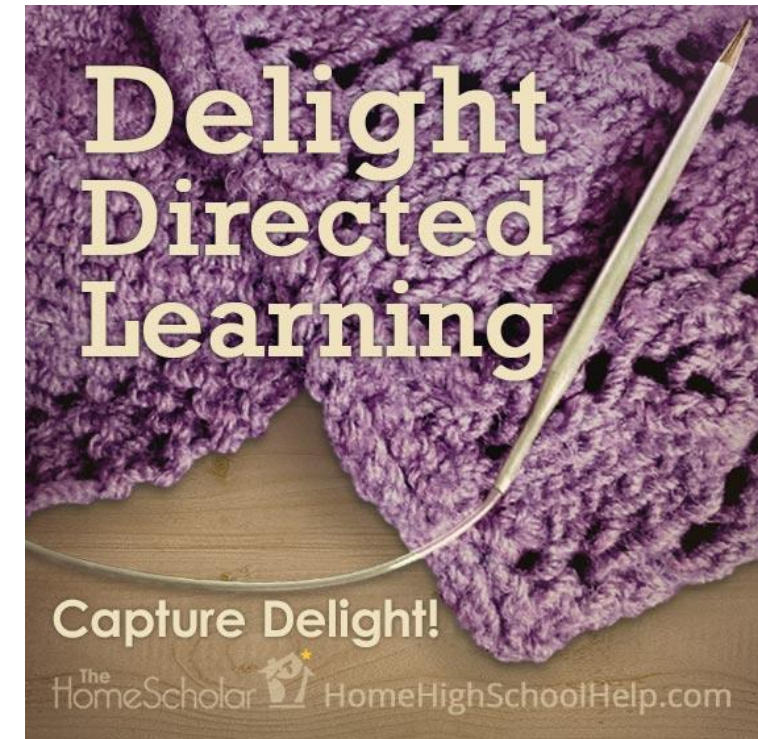
- You can't possibly be behind
- Anything can be fixed in Junior year
- Start strong, and do what you can
- Don't double-up trying to catch up
- Choose self-teaching curriculum
- This too shall pass...
- This is a season, not a life sentence



Big Idea for Success #3

Encourage Delight Directed Learning

- Encourage their passion
- What do they do for fun?
- Collect high school credits
- Avoid turning fun into “schoolwork”
- Capture natural high school credits



Big Idea for Success #4

Take Advantage of Breaks

- Relax during break
- Update homeschool records
- Take continuing education classes
- Plan ahead for the coming year
- Collect summer credits
- Add summer activities to activity list



Big Idea for Success #4

Take Advantage of Breaks

- Retain core math skills
- Read books on College Bound List
- Enjoy meaningful activities
- Employment or volunteer service



Big Idea for Success #5

Take Continuing Education Classes

- Take Gold Care Club monthly classes
 - Quick start
 - Beginner
 - Intermediate
 - Advanced
 - Encouragement
- Yearly homeschool conventions



Suggested Resource

1. Setting the Records Straight
2. College Admission and Scholarships
3. TechnoLogic: How to Set Technology Boundaries
4. Finding the Faith to Homeschool High School
5. Coffee Break Book: How to Homeschool 9th and 10th Grades
6. Comprehensive Record Solution



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Question
And
Answer

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