That Crumpled Paper Was Due Last Week: Helping Disorganized And Distracted Boys Succeed In School And Life
At last, the solution for getting disorganized boys back on track. Missed assignments. Lack of focus and enthusiasm. Falling grades. For too many boys and their frustrated parents, these are the facts of life. But they don’t have to be. Top academic counselor Ana Homayoun has helped turn even the most disorganized, scattered, and unfocused boys into successful young people who consistently meet their personal and academic challenges. She does this by getting back to basics—starting with a simple fact: Most boys need to be taught how to get organized, how to study, and most important—how to visualize, embrace and meet their own goals. With an accessible and no-nonsense approach, Homayoun shows how to: Identify their son’s dis-organizational style Help him set academic and personal goals he cares about Design and establish the right “tools of the trade” Complete assignments without pulling all-nighters Help him tune out social pressure and fend off anxiety Much more than a study guide, this insightful, user-friendly book provides a road map for the success too many boys have trouble finding—in school and in life.

I have to admit that Ana Homayoun’s That Crumpled Paper Was Due Last Week: Helping Disorganized and Distracted Boys Succeed in School and Life sat on my bookshelf for two years too long. In my first year as the Head of Middle School at Crystal, I purchased the book as soon as I read the title. I purchased it, placed it on the bookshelf, and tried to keep my head above water. I finally pulled it off the shelf this spring and read it cover to cover in one weekend; remember that I have a one year old son, so reading a book in a single weekend is like reading a book in a single
sitting. I then ordered a copy for each sixth grade advisor; it is our team summer read. Too many education books are rich on theory and thin on solutions. The parent or teacher of a disorganized and distracted middle school student does not need much theory. They need to know what to do today, tomorrow and next week. Homayoun hits the nail on the head with this book. The majority of this title is filled with specific strategies, not just tips, for organizing and studying. On the first read I filled the pages with underlinings and marginalia. Since then I have added post-it notes to mark favorite pages for meetings with parents and teachers. The theory she does provide, a taxonomy of disorganized boys, will serve to assuage a parent’s concerns; oh phew, he is not the only one with these problems! My only criticism is that the title might cause parents of girls to miss this invaluable resource. While her taxonomy of boys is rather gender specific, all of the tips for organization apply to both sexes. Homayoun has tried to fill the need with a new book on girls, The Myth of the Perfect Girl.

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