



*In 1983 a government report entitled “A Nation At Risk” strongly criticized American Education and warned about the future. Their recommendations included:*

**Recommendation A: Content** *We recommend that State and local high school graduation requirements be strengthened and that, at a minimum, all students seeking a diploma be required to lay the foundations in the Five New Basics by taking the following curriculum during their 4 years of high school: (a) 4 years of English; (b) 3 years of mathematics; (c) 3 years of science; (d) 3 years of social studies; and (e) one-half year of computer science. For the college-bound, 2 years of foreign language in high school are strongly recommended in addition to those taken earlier.*

**Recommendation B: Standards and Expectations**

*We recommend that schools, colleges, and universities adopt more rigorous and measurable standards, and higher expectations, for academic performance and student conduct, and that 4-year colleges and universities raise their requirements for admission. This will help students do their best educationally with challenging materials in an environment that supports learning and authentic accomplishment.*

**Recommendation C: Time**

*We recommend that significantly more time be devoted to learning the New Basics. This will require more effective use of the existing school day, a longer school day, or a lengthened school year. School districts and State legislatures should strongly consider 7-hour school days, as well as a 200- to 220-day school year.*

**Recommendation E: Leadership and Fiscal Support**

*We recommend that citizens across the Nation hold educators and elected officials responsible for providing the leadership necessary to achieve these reforms, and that citizens provide the fiscal support and stability required to bring about the reforms we propose.*

*List 7 goals we should have for the American High School Education system?*

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7

- 1) Create high school and community expectations for high achievement
- 2) Create a rigorous curriculum to prepare students for college and a global economy
- 3) Present engaging instructional strategies that involve students in real-world problem solving
- 4) Use classroom assessments to inform instructional decisions
- 5) Provide extra-help programs for all students to help each student learn at a more rigorous level
- 6) Help students understand the impact of curricular rigor and school success on their personal goals
- 7) Ensure that students learn in a supportive environment.

## *Two Million Minutes* Discussion Questions



*Who/what is to blame for the lower educational standards in the United States?*

*Is competition in education healthy or destructive to the student and the nation as a whole?*

*What are problems that the United States has educating students that China and India do not share?*

*If you were principal of Saratoga High for a day and could wave your magic wand and make changes in the school what reforms would you make?*

*In the world today there are two types of jobs:*

1. Low-skill, repetitive
2. High skill, inventive

*Given that and the chart below why is the film you just saw even more disconcerting?*

	Hourly Wage	Availability
U.S.	17.20	90 percent of the world's workers live in countries where the average wage is less than \$1.00 per
Mexico	2.10	
China	.65	
India	.25	

**“Seven Survival skills”:**

- \* Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- \* Collaboration Across Networks and Leading by Influence
- \* Agility and Adaptability
- \* Initiative and Entrepreneurialism
- \* Effective Oral and Written Communication.
- \* Accessing and Analyzing Information
- \* Curiosity and Imagination