

Anya Kamenetz's The Edupunks Guide to a DIY Credential was not only an informative read, but also an enjoyable one. The book was filled with helpful information, tips, and tricks, however there was also a constant fun side to the book as well. From defining the title--Edupunk meaning a bit of a rebel when it comes to schooling--to that little flare of fun in each piece of advice, I did not feel as if I was being fed a plethora of hard to use information at any one point.

Before reading this book I was admittedly pretty uneducated when it came to a "DIY credential". I believe that this book is an excellent jumping off point--a great place to go from. The Edupunk's Guide to a DIY Credential really lends itself to a great overview, a place that will both answer some questions and assist in forming other ones. This book does an amazing job covering all of the important areas necessary to schooling one's self in this way, this makes it very easy to form questions and explore other sources. It never occurred to me that you could seek education online without needing to enroll in an online university. It is an obvious thing, but it always seemed as though that was the only way it would count for anything, which really is not the case.

I appreciate that this book offers advice that does not only apply to or benefit people who are looking for higher education online; many of the tips in this book can apply to high school students such as myself. I found that making a plan, as outlined in the book, can also benefit people other than those seeking higher education. I also found that many of the study tips were really helpful as well. Often online research is made out to be much more complicated than it is, however on page 8 it breaks things down to the point where someone who is as bad with computers as I am can follow along. The author talks about how one of the best places to start is Google, how Wikipedia is also a good source, and how both of these sources lend themselves to following your curiosity. Anya Kamenetz speaks about how following your curiosities is good, but staying organized and being able to follow what you were looking at is also important--she talked about how emailing yourself links is really helpful in doing so.

I am currently a junior in high school, everyone knows one's junior year brings a lot of academic pressure: the PSATs, the SATs, hard classes, high expectations, and looking into higher education. Stress sets in junior year--it's well known. It was really refreshing for me to this book, to see that not everything is as cut and dry as it is made out to be. It is easy to look as the future

in black and white, but that makes things both more scary and less realistic. This book helped me to see that, to understand that it's okay to be a little bit of an "Edupunk" to think a little out of the box. To read this book you don't have to be dead set on a plan for the future, in fact maybe it's better that you go into it with a totally open mind--it has a lot to offer, for anyone.