

### HW #19: This American Life Response

**Directions:** Listen to the “This American Life: 474 Back to School “ radio episode about education and write a 1-2 page, typed, double-spaced response that addresses 3 or more of the points below.

<http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/474/back-to-school>

Important points to discuss:

- Explain the importance of non-cognitive skills and give specific examples of these types of skills.
- Discuss the effect(s) of stress on success. How does poverty relate to stress levels and educational success? How can stress prevent a child from developing non-cognitive skills?
- Discuss the details of Kewauna Lerma’s experience. What were her challenges and how did she work to overcome them (overcoming is explained at the end of the segment)? Explain how Kewauna approaches college. What are some of her strategies for succeeding there?
- Discuss the study of rat moms and their rat pups. How were the rat pups affected by the way they were raised?
- Discuss the idea of “attachment”. What is it and what are the benefits of attachment? Discuss the story of Barbara and Aniya McDonald. How does Barbara learn to become a better parent?
- Discuss the One Goal program that Kewauna joins. Why is this program effective? What are leadership principals?
- What other things could you relate to or did you find interesting in the radio segment?