Excelling Academically

This is the number one tenet of getting good grades: always, always, always pay attention in class. Here's a whole bunch of reasons why:

You might miss some important information. Plenty of teachers talk about tests and quizzes in class. If you're not paying attention, you could miss the answers.

You could get bonus points. Most teachers reward students who are active and participating with extra participation points. This could be a sizable chunk of your grade.

Paying attention in class makes the homework a million times easier. You'll have much more free time breezing through your homework at night if you've already spent the time in class thinking about it.

It makes tests easier, too. If you've already spent an hour that day in class engaged, you have to study that much less.

Sometimes your grade will lie on a cliff between a regular whole letter and a plus or a minus, like a A- and an A, or a B+ and an A-. In many cases, the teacher will take into account if you're a "good kid" and if he or she likes you. The more you pay attention, the more likely it is your teacher will give you the benefit of the doubt.