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It is time to wind up the school year, and it is often difficult to feel "done. " For parents that are not thoroughly done with a textbook or possibly a unit of study, then you should think outside the box so that you can wind up your classes quickly - and still have time to enjoy summer.

When you have to finish up quickly then take into consideration the "Popcorn Party Plan. " In place of working through a textbook, or doing every assignment, go the "quick and easy" course instead. Not every class in high school must be hard. I remember that I had certain high school classes that were a lot easier than others! So for a break, and a means to quickly end a unit study or course, contemplate educational videos so that you can catch up.

For example, I have a child that loves economics. He studied economics regularly, and we talked about it consistently as a family. Yet suddenly my oldest son was a junior in high school, and I realized that he was the one that did not love economics - and I had forgotten to teach it! I needed an effective way to quickly teach that class in a simple way, given that my oldest was already bogged down with heavy academics in math and science, and he definitely would not have the energy necessary for a big beefy economics course. Just existing in our household meant that he had been already familiar with more than his fair share of economics. I needed to find a way to be certain it was enough, there were no gaps, and I could call it a 1/2 credit class. That is when I stumbled on the "Popcorn Party Plan. " I chose a challenging series of educational videos, and we watched a movie about it.

For economics, I used the Teaching Company Basic Economics course. With my clients, I have in some cases suggested The Standard Deviants - American Government 2-pack.

For American History, look into Joy Hakim's History of US on PBS.

You can also just search the video section of your library, to find out what supplemental videos they might have to help you finish up the details. As an example, one client was doing American History. The trouble was she was working at it too thoroughly. It took her considerably longer to cover the American Revolution, as they were enjoying it so much. They had covered numerous current events as well. She did not want to miss the post-civil war era, yet she did not have time to work it too extensively. We decided that she could compromise and take care of the middle period of American History lightly, by using the Popcorn Party Plan. Watching videos on the missing topics in American History, and just enjoying it together with a bowl of popcorn. It was a lot better than a gap, and also more reasonable than a summer tests-and-worksheets class. It was a fantastic strategy to finish up the year!

When you feel your children comprehend something, or you have to generate a quick and painless class to fill a perceived gap, look at trying the Popcorn Party Plan yourself!

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Antony M - About Author:
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