

Compare & Contrast Essay Example

High School vs. College

Many people believe college is just a continuation of high school. However, the two have distinct differences that can't be ignored when you walk onto a college campus. And, it isn't just that newfound freedom. Examine the similarities and differences of college vs. high school by looking at the structure, teaching style, and grading.

In high school, the structure is easy to see. Most students have followed it for at least the last 8 years leading up to high school. Students spend about 6 hours a day or 30 hours a week learning various subjects in structured time increments. To make sure everyone attends, buses usher them to school.

Additionally, teachers use a lecture style with textbooks and notes on a chalkboard. Students ask questions during lectures and take notes. Most of the time, the lecture follows the textbook.

Furthermore, using the textbooks and standardized rubrics from the state, high school students receive grades based on what they comprehend of the material. Teachers use homework, test, and quizzes to assess their ability. And students receive additional or extra credit to help raise their grade.

While college does have a structure, it's very different from the high school example. Students follow a schedule, but it is a schedule of their own choosing. Rather than 6 hours a day in class, full-time college students spend 12 to 18 hours per week attending classes. The school year follows a semester or quarter system that covers fall, winter, spring, and summer.

In addition, when it comes to teaching styles, college professors aren't going to go by the book. While books supplement learning, their lectures are full of interactive materials, illustrations, personal experience, and their own expertise in the subject. Rather than giving all the information, teachers expect students to find it on their own through research assignments and homework. And if students have questions, it's their responsibility to seek teachers out.

Lastly, professors expect students to apply their knowledge, so when it comes to grading, it is more based on a student's ability to apply this knowledge to unique situations. And, tests can make or break grades. Some professors test this knowledge only a few times through semester tests. Failing a test could mean failing the course.

High school and college are both institutions of higher education using classes and grade structures. However, that is where the similarities end. The structure, teaching methods, and grading styles are completely different between these two institutions.