

Line between College and high school

High school students know that there are differences between high school and college, but sometimes what they think is not how it is. High School can be considered as a continuation of elementary and middle school where one learns trigonometry, physics, Philippine history, etc. By law, it is necessary and to a certain extent, one is forced to attend High School. This is beneficial because a student at a young age learns the basic rules of work, and life, such as not to come to school late, and not to procrastinate. However the main focus for most high school students is the acceptance of peers and not their scholarly duties.

Being a first-year student is fun! Unlike high school, where my first year is usually filled with anxiety and the occasional wrong-classroom mishap, colleges prepare first-year students with an orientation that builds a strong bond among class members. In college my professors are expecting us to voice our thoughts, and disagreeing with the professor's opinion is considered an interesting debate, not deviant behavior. Class participation and providing your own perspective and analysis are key to success in the college learning environment. Balancing academic and social life is difficult. This balance is something that most likely our parents helped us with in high school. Now that we are in college, we can no longer rely on our parents for structure, rules, or academic motivation. All of these are now in our hands. Being in college can be socially overwhelming -- an array of evening and weekend activities is open to college students, including lectures, club/organization events, formals, dorm events, and of course, parties.

When I was in high school, my parents are often there to stand between me and temptations. Once my parents are removed from the equation, I am left with choices. Just because your parents said you cannot do something does not mean you cannot do it. However, this is where personal choice and responsibility come in. Once you are in college in many ways you are considered an adult, and you have more opportunities to be socially active. You might have been exposed to some of these things in high school, but the "barrier" of your parents' rules (or boarding-school regulations) made decisions easier. You choose how to balance your academic and social life. You make all of your own decisions, and you are responsible for the consequences. Remember that being an adult does not mean you need to figure everything out by yourself. Gathering information about these and other decisions, and talking to parents, siblings, and friends can help you make these important decisions.