

# High School vs. College Classes

## Personal Freedom in High School

Your time is usually structured by others.

You can count on parents and teachers for guidance and to remind you of your responsibilities

*Guiding Principle:* You will usually be told what your responsibilities are and corrected if your behavior is out of line.

## Personal Freedom in College

You manage your own time.

You will be faced with new moral and ethical decisions. You must balance responsibilities and set priorities.

*Guiding Principle:* You're old enough to take responsibility for your decisions and their consequences.

## High School Classes

The school year is 36 weeks long; some classes extend over both semesters and some do not.

Teachers carefully monitor class attendance.

You are provided with textbooks at little or no cost.

## College Classes

The academic year is divided into three separate 12-week quarters, plus three days at the end of the quarter for final exams.

Some instructors factor attendance into final grades.

You must budget \$200 or more for textbooks each quarter.

## Studying in High School

Study time outside of class can be as little as two hours per week, and this may be for last-minute test preparation.

Class participation is often all that is necessary to learn what is needed.

*Guiding Principle:* You are usually told in class what you need to learn from assigned readings.

## Studying in College

You should plan to study two to three hours outside of class for each in-class hour throughout the quarter to achieve mastery. You will need to review class notes and assignments regularly.

Substantial reading and writing assignments may not be directly reviewed in class.

*Guiding Principle:* It's up to you to read and understand the reading assignments. Lectures and other assignments presume you have already done so.

## High School Teachers

Teachers approach you if they believe you need assistance.

Teachers provide you with information you missed when you were absent.

Teachers often write information on the board to be copied into your notes.

Teachers often take time to remind you of assignments and due dates.

## College Teachers

Most instructors expect you to initiate contact if you need assistance.

Instructors expect you to get notes from classmates for information you missed.

Good note-taking skills are a must; instructors expect you to identify the important points.

Instructors expect you to consult the course syllabus for all important class information.

## Tests in High School

Frequent tests covering small amounts of material.

Teachers may rearrange test dates to avoid conflict with school events.

## Tests in College

Two or three tests per quarter may be cumulative, covering large amounts of material.

Instructors in different courses usually schedule tests without regard to the demands of other courses or outside activities.

## Grades in High School

Consistently good homework or "extra credit" may raise your overall grade when test scores are low.

Initial low test grades may not have an adverse effect on your final grade.

*Guiding Principle:* Effort counts. Teachers reward a good-faith effort.

## Grades in College

Grades on tests and major papers usually comprise most of the course grade.

Generally, all tests contribute substantially to your final grade. A low initial test is a "wake-up call."

*Guiding Principle:* Results count. Instructors expect quality work.