

Essay Question

What advice would you give to graduating seniors about the transition from high school to college/business/trade school? What hurdles have you had to overcome and why has the experience been worth it?

(Please use additional sheets of paper if necessary)

The first semester of freshmen year is the time when you realize that you are an adult from now on. There are no parents to tell you to eat your vegetables and teachers to push you to do your homework. It feels exhilarating to finally have the freedom to do anything you want, but with this new kind of privilege comes a great deal of responsibility. Besides independence, becoming an adult means that you have to be aware of your financial situations and to have the discipline to know your priorities, such as preparing for an exam instead of hanging out with friends. However, it is also the perfect time to make mistakes because the support system built into college lets you do that without harsh punishments; in other words, college is a practice session for real adulthood.

Think of transition from high school to college as a fresh start since most people you meet in college don't know who you are. Unlike high school, you don't have to pretend to be someone else in college in order to "fit in". There are all types of personalities in college and you will always find a compatible group as a matter of time. A great way to meet new people and to step out of your comfort zone is trying out new activities. For example, I always wanted to learn ballet but didn't have the opportunity growing up. So I decided to take the Ballet 101 course last semester and I had so much fun while learning something new and making great friends!

My next tip is to never forget that you are in college because you want to get a higher education (academics are your first priority). However, you should still have fun and be involved in events and clubs, but just make sure that you are going to your classes and doing your homework in time. There are also many academic opportunities in college such as study abroad, summer internships, grants and scholarships, etc. If you are planning to take advantage of these opportunities, bond with your professors because you will need a recommendation from them. Plus, they are cool people since most of them have done so much in their subject fields. An excellent way to get to know them is to visit them during office hours. College professors interact with myriad students so it is important to make sure that they know who you are.

As I started college, I realized that life without parents is tough but you have to push through. I now feel like I'm more mature and understanding through overcoming new challenges, such as losing motivation, being homesick, and trying to support myself financially. Yet, I would not trade the experience with anything else because I developed significantly as a person and learned to motivate myself, to live on a budget, and to make new friends. Overall, last semester was an awakening call which opened my eyes to the real life.