

Two Examples of College Ready Writing: (ECC Score: 5)

Living in a world where a college education is cheap to come by is a dream to most people. With the rising costs of college, some four year tuitions costing more than a house can, people are trying to come up with more ways to fund their aspirations. One of the solutions that some students consider is taking time off between high school and college to get a full time job and earn money before going off to college. Although this may seem like a plausible solution, there are many negative aspects to taking time off between college and high school. Transitioning right from high school to college will help most people in retaining more knowledge from high school, keeping good study habits, and graduating earlier to join the workforce.

Remembering information taught from grade to grade in high school is hard enough, even though there is only a three month break between grades. Imagine if there were six months, a year, or even several years between each grade in high school, very little information would be easily retainable. When students cannot remember skills taught in the past, time must be wasted reviewing previously taught items, with less time spent on newer information. If one were to take time off between high school and college the amount of information one would need to review just to get to the basic level of where they stood before would be immense. This would make already difficult college classes more rigorous, as you would be spending time on catching up your old skills along with learning new ones. Removing oneself from the education process for a period of time after high school would serve to only make the transition to college life more difficult, with less of a chance of doing well in college studies.

Many students find a way to balance their life and studies by the end of their high school careers. The easiest technique students generally find to keeping up good study skills is to make it a continuous habit, so that one does not fall into the trap of becoming lazy. Students who make a habit out of doing their work in high school are also the students who excel. The same can obviously be said for college, in fact, college requires students to work even more rigorously and to persistently rely on their study skills. Taking a break between high school and college would no doubt break these well developed study habits that one has learned to use throughout their high school career.

The largest issue for most students going to college is clearly how to finance it. While the proposed option of taking time off between high school and college to get a job and earn money is conceivable, it is probably not one's best option. Receiving financial aid, scholarships, and saving up money throughout high school with a part time job is an easy way to help get your college education paid for. Even though those actions may not completely cover tuition, loans are a great option. Loans are still a better option than taking off time between high school and college because once one graduates from college their pay scale and salary increases greatly. With a larger salary it would be much easier to pay off college loans than it would be to pay for college in advance, working for trivial pay.

Overall, students must consider which options for college hold their best interest. Choosing to take a break between college and high school does not have solid reasoning behind it, other than wanting to take a break from education, which would only make college harder. On the other hand, making an immediate transition to college from high school is the ideal option for many reasons. Not taking a break will aid in keeping good study habits, information taught in previous education, and will – in the long run – make tuition easier to pay for.

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Senior year is without a doubt the most important year of high school, but the summer after that year is equally important. It is during this time that you prepare for the adult world. It is also during this time that you get ready to move out of your childhood home and move out. Immediately following that summer is when you should go off to college if college is in your future. It is not wise to take a long break after high school before you go to college because educational skills that have been learned and practiced may be lost or damaged, and you may lose your will for further education if you do not go to college right away.

The educational skills that are learned in high school are very critical to succeeding in college. If these skills are not continually used, they will lose efficiency. First of all, writing skills may be severely compromised. For example, the proper way to write a research paper probably won't be used outside of the classroom. Therefore, that skill will deteriorate over the summer. Secondly, mathematical skills will suffer as well. After high school is over with, for instance, it is very hard to get access to the text and resources needed to maintain the skills learned. This means that it is highly likely to forget what has been learned. If college is not attended right away, these skills will deteriorate further and it will have to be relearned through remedial courses.

Many high school graduates say that they are going to college, but they want to take a break first. The reality remains that many of these people will end up losing their passion for further education over time. First of all, they may want to take a break to earn more money. But then they may not want to leave their job once they have sufficient funds. Many of them think that since they have done so well so far, without college, they may as well just keep going at their job and forget about going to college all together. Next, many professions require further education, so college is mandatory. Therefore, college should be looked at as an extension of high school, where a summer break of 3 months or so is given, before school is mandatory once again. In the end, if college is wanted after high school, it is more beneficial to go straight there than to take a break of more than a few months.

The reality will always remain this: college is hard, and college is expensive. If you have dreams of going to college, then don't put them on hold. It is not a smart choice to wait any more than you have to. If you want

to wait because of a lack of money, then take out student loans and/or apply for scholarships. If you want to wait just to take a break, then you are risking your own future. If you wait, your passion and your skills will decrease, and chances of having to pay for remedial classes will increase. All in all, it is more beneficial in the long run to go straight from high school to college.

The following three essays (samples 3,4 & 5) are examples of writing with a score of 4 and, therefore, are not college-ready. These students would be placed into English 098 at ECC. The first essay is a high 098, the second a medium 098, and the last a low 098.