

## Essay

Please write and title a 500-700-word essay on the following theme:

What advice would you give an incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grader at your high school to help them maximize their high school experience?

Entering high school as a new ninth grade student is a very intimidating experience. You are at a time in your life that you are learning about yourself and beginning to work on the rest of your life. You think you have plenty of time to think about college and your future but really you don't. Your future begins the day you enter your freshman year. When you are an incoming ninth grade student you need to utilize college opportunities, apply yourself in all academic areas, get out of your comfort zone, and establish yourself as a role model.

As a ninth grade student you probably feel college isn't something you need to be thinking about but it is. Every class you take and every grade you earn is working towards you getting accepted into your dream college. Every chance you have to visit a college or take a college course you should utilize it. These actions will help you become better prepared when you graduate high school and enter the college experience.

Another area you need to focus on as an incoming ninth grade student is applying yourself in all academic areas. Your grades all count towards your grade point average, no matter what classes they may be. Future colleges and employers will look at your grades not only as a symbol of your intelligence but also as a symbol of your work ethic. Choose classes not only that you will be good at but classes that will challenge you to grow academically.

In high school I recommend you get out of your comfort zone. That club you think you'd never be good at...GO FOR IT! Don't think people are better than you. Don't think you are better than other people. Don't be afraid to talk to people and create networks. In high school I pushed myself to run for offices, give speeches, compete in academic events, and numerous other activities that were way out of my comfort zone. These activities enhanced my public speaking and leadership skills and brought me to honors I never could have imagined. Believe teachers when they say they believe in you. One teacher especially pushed me out of my

comfort zone because she believed in me. She has helped me achieve successes beyond my wildest dreams and I will forever be grateful to her for that.

My last piece of advice is to establish yourself as a role model to grow your leadership skills. Be a respectful and responsible student. Tell the truth. Be the student that teachers know they can count on. Stay away from drugs and alcohol. Younger students look up to the older students. Be the student that younger students want to be like. Achieve successes that make students want to work hard. Be the role model all teenagers deserve!

As an incoming ninth grader it is important to utilize college opportunities, apply yourself in all academic areas, get out of your comfort zone, and establish yourself as a role model. Do all these things and you will be on the pathway to success as a high school student, a future college student, a future employee, and a future productive member of society.