The Differences between High School and College  
 Sometimes, when I think about my time spent in high school, it feels as if I graduated twenty years ago. When, in fact, it was only last June when I donned the old cap and gown, and received that diploma that I had been working so hard for. I believe the reason for this is because college and high school are like two completely different worlds. High school and college differ from the structure, to the work, and the different courses.   
 All throughout high school we had this idea that college was going to be one big party with periods of work in between. When, in fact, this idea of college as being one big party is not at all how it really is. I think the reason for these assumptions is because high school was so structured that we never really had time for anything during the day besides school. From 8:10 until 3:15 we were stuck inside those bland concrete walls just hoping for some kind of miracle to relieve the everyday monotony. In high school, at the beginning of every year, we were given a strict schedule that had seven to eight courses that were each an hour and a half long. These never ending classes were broken up with five minute intervals, in which, we were supposed to be able to go to the restroom, our locker, and be able to make it all the way back to class before, the tardy bell rang. However, in college the structure of one’s day is quite different. Now, I am not saying that college is one drunken fest and you can show up for class whenever you feel like it and expect to get an A in the course, but the atmosphere in college is a lot different than high   
school. When registering for college the student picks how many classes he/she wants to take so that he/she does not feel overwhelmed. Also, in college, one is not rushed to get to the next class. Often times you might have an hour or two between classes where you can study, catch up on your reading for a class, of just relax before your next class. In high school, we were always told that we had to study every night or we would not make good grades. However, I found this statement, made by many of my teachers, to be completely untrue. I am not saying that my instructors were lying to us or trying to scare us into studying, they probably believed that in order to pass their course with flying colors we would have to delve deep into our books every night. In some cases, I did have to fire up every single one of my brain cells and study just about every hour of my free time to do well. Actually, that was just one class, physics, and it almost killed me. However, I digress. Nevertheless, in high school in most of my classes, I only opened the book when I had to turn in a written assignment and never did I once sit down and read the entire chapter in any of my books. I hardly ever studied for a test, and when I did study I crammed all of the information into my brain in one night. And it is not like I barely passed all of my classes with a D, I did quite well in high school doing the bare minimum passing my classes with As, Bs, the occasional C. And in physics, the class I did work my butt of in, I passed with a   
high D and even that was a miracle. In college, I do not work like I did in high school. Do not get me wrong I tried to hold on to my old ways as hard as I could, but it just does not work. When, my instructors in college told me on the first day that I would have to read every chapter in my book I thought, “Yeah right, like I haven’t heard that before!” however I found out very soon   
that they were not kidding at all. One the whole, you have to work two hours outside of class for every hour you are in class in a week, and that’s not a lie either. Most of the time, I spend double that in a week. I crack open a book dealing with school during every break between classes, and once I walk into my house at four o’clock in the afternoon I do not even look at the T.V. or computer until I have all of my homework and reading done for all of my classes. Needless to say, all my old tricks I pulled in high school will not work in college, at all.  
 In high school, students tend to only take the courses they need to graduate and spend the rest of their time in study hall, and from personal experience I can say over 98% of the class does not spend their time studying for an hour and a half. High school courses mainly consist of the same thing every year. You have Math, English, some kind of Science, and a History/Geography class. And there is that excruciatingly painful freshmen year when you are forced to take gym, freshmen success, and health, oh the memories. The thing is, students just are not interested in taking a freshmen success class, or any other class that is not going to help them anywhere else in life. Especially, when you have to take freshmen success in the last nine weeks of your freshmen year, like I did. College courses are entirely different from high school courses; because what you learn in college will help you when you join the workforce. Take English for example. In high school I took four years of English reading The Canterbury Tales, poems by Robert Frost, and other literary works. All of which were very entertaining, but not at all helpful to me. However, in my English class in college we are learning how to write effective papers, and you need to know how to write an effective paper for just about any job you have, even if it’s just for the resume. In college you choose which courses you need to take for your career of choice. Therefore, you are more likely to be interested in the course content, and you will not feel as if you have wasted your time at the end of the course.

Every time we move from one type of learning institution to another we can look at the similarities and differences of both. However, from elementary school to middle school to high school it was different, but not a life changing event. However, the jump from high school to   
college was one of the scariest and most exhilarating changes I have ever encountered in my life. These two learning institutions are not even remotely the same, but it is amazing how fast I acclimated to the college lifestyle. I cannot even imagine what it would be like to be in   
high school again. I cannot even remember how I made it to all of my classes in five minutes, or how I managed to pull off As and Bs by doing hardly any work at all. I cannot even remember how I managed to stay awake in some of the classes I was forced, and yes I do mean forced, to take. I do know that high school is where I grew up and realized who I was and who my real friends are, and for that I would not change my high school experience for anything in the world.