UNIV 150 Essay # 2 Everett Sjostrom

UNIV 150

MWF 9:00am

What is the meaning of being independent? Is it the same as being dependent? What is the difference between being independent and being dependent? Webster defines independent as the freedom from the influence or control of others while it defines dependent as a person who relies on another person. Unlike high school, where we could be dependent on others and still graduate, college is all about being independent and learning how to be responsible young adults, and also realizing we cannot rely on others to get things done forever.

Throughout high school, teachers would always tell us that college is ten times different from high school, but we never believed them. On our first day of college classes, it hit us and we realized that what we heard from our teachers was absolutely right. Being in college makes people independent and less dependent on others, which is a great thing since we cannot depend on other people for the rest of our lives. This is an enormous change for all college freshmen because in high school, we would depend on people, friends or classmates for help and it really didn’t matter what it was for. This time last year the thought of being independent and away at college together sounded so much fun, but nobody told us including myself that it would hard. Every high school senior had to go their own separate way after their days of twelfth grade were over which meant being dependent on others could no longer happen. Going to college is the first and most important step when it comes to being independent.

College makes us realize that we need to take care of ourselves and make smart choices that can best help us do well. Being independent and making our own decisions could affect our college career whether it’s good or bad. In college, there is nobody to depend on or guide us, which is nothing like high school where help was given every step of the way. As independent college students are responsible for individually picking our classes and the times we want them to be at, we also elect the number of credits we want to take per semester. There will be no one telling us what classes to take and what classes not to take, it’s our decision.

All our lives, we have been dependent on people such as parents, siblings, friends, or teachers, but now that we’re in college we must be independent. There will be nobody to point us in the right direction or to hold our hand and guide us. This prompt really stood out to me and it made me realize that college is the first step of becoming an adult and living on my own. Before high school and during high school we would depend on other people. Independence in college does not necessarily mean we keep ourselves separated from others, but it’s more along the lines of dedicating our abilities towards school without anyone guiding us.