

**Reality Check:
High School Teachers versus College Professors**

High School Teachers	College Professors
Teachers check your completed homework	Professors may not always check completed homework, but they will assume you can perform the same tasks on test. If not, you will ask for help
Teachers remind you of your incomplete work	Professors may not remind you of incomplete work
Teachers are often available for conversation before, during, or after class	Professors expect and want you to attend their scheduled office hours
Teachers have been trained in teaching methods to assist in imparting knowledge to students	Professors have been trained as experts in their particular areas of research
Teachers provide you with information you missed when you were absent	Professors expect you to get from classmates any notes from classes you missed
Teachers present material to help you understand the material in the textbook	Professors may not follow a textbook. Instead, to amplify the text, they may give illustrations, provide background information, or discuss research about the topic you are studying. Or they may expect YOU to relate the classes to the textbook readings
Teachers often write information on the board to be copied in your notes	Professors may lecture nonstop, expecting you to identify the important points in your notes. When professors write on the board, it may be to amplify the lecture, not to summarize it. Good notes are a must
Teachers impart knowledge and facts, sometimes drawing direct connections and leading you through the thinking process.	Professors expect you to think about and synthesize seemingly unrelated topics.
Teachers often take time to remind you of assignments and due dates	Professors expect you to read, save, and consult the course syllabus; the syllabus spells out exactly what is expected of you, when it is due, and how you will be graded
Teachers carefully monitor class attendance	Professors may not formally take roll, but they are still likely to know whether or not you attended, AND IT LEAVES AN IMPRESSION
Guiding principle: High school is a teaching environment in which you acquire facts and skills.	Guiding principle: College is a learning environment in which you take responsibility for thinking through and applying what you have learned