

# HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS VS. COLLEGE PROFESSORS



## High School Teachers

vs.

## 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 tests.

Teachers remind you of your incomplete work.

Professors may not remind you of incomplete work.

Teachers approach you if they believe you need assistance.

Professors are usually open and helpful, but most expect you to initiate contact if you need assistance.

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

Professors may not follow the textbook.

you understand the material in the textbook.

Teachers often write information on the board to be copied in your notes.

Teachers impart knowledge and facts, sometimes drawing direct connections and leading you through the thinking process.

Teachers often take time to remind you of assignments and due dates.

Teachers carefully monitor class attendance.

**Guiding principle: High school is a teaching environment in which you acquire facts and skills.**

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.

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.

Professors expect you to think about and synthesize seemingly unrelated topics.

Professors expect you to read, save, and consult the course syllabus (outline); the syllabus spells out exactly what is expected of you, when it is due, and how you will be graded.

Professors may not formally take roll, but they are still likely to know whether or not you attended.

**Guiding principle: College is a learning environment in which you take responsibility for thinking through and applying what you have learned.**

## Tips for Working with Professors

*Consider using the following phrases when meeting with a professor:*

1. Professor X, I need your help.
2. Professor X, if you were a student in your class, what would YOU do to get an "A" in your class?
3. Professor X, I'm not getting the kind of grades I know I can in your class; if you don't mind being candid with me, "What do think I'm doing wrong?"
4. Professor X, other than the text, what other outside resources would you recommend; I use to help me in your class?
5. Professor X, would you mind if I came by during your office hours to get some additional help?
6. Professor X, what do you think the key is to mastering (whatever the subject is)?



Adapted from "Taming the Tough Professor" by Joseph Martin

# Tips for Working with Professors



## What Professors Appreciate:

Completed homework

Attending class

Being on time

Being informed of absences

**PARTICIPATION**

## What Professors Don't Appreciate:

Unpreparedness

Talking in class

Wiseguys

Falling asleep in class

## When Going To Talk To A Professor:

Go during assigned office hours, or schedule a meeting

Speak and act respectfully

Be specific with your question or concern

Be honest

Accept responsibility

Bring any relevant documentation or coursework

Be reasonable with your expectation - don't expect miracles!