

My Life As a Student

If I could describe my life as a student in one word, it would be regrettable. I have never given 100% in high school or grade school when I knew that I could have. Many times I ended up watching TV or going out instead of studying and reading the material that would be on the exam. Just getting myself together for an hour the night before each exam would have definitely been helpful when test time came around.

I do enjoy learning though. Exploring new fields and subjects is always interesting, but I really dislike being tested on what I learned. Assessment is always necessary to distinguish the hard workers from the lazy, but I feel that another form of assessment rather than tests would be more effective for students.

If I could change one thing about myself as a student, it would be to stick to the motivation and goals that I had coming into the school year throughout the entire year. I want to be able to put full effort into everything I do academically and otherwise and not lose focus as time goes on.

As a student, I learn best when things are explained to me, a step-by-step solution to a math problem, the mechanics of why things happen in physics, or who the greatest Roman emperor was and why. Books are always good to review from but I feel that a teacher's explanation is the best way to go. A major reason for this is because you can have your questions explained along the way by a teacher, whereas a book you must understand what is on the paper because that is what is written.

UIUC is a great school for me to learn because of the way many of their classes are formatted. The lecture-discussion sections of each course are good because you can be introduced to the material by the professor and then go through analysis with a T.A. the following day.