

Author's Notes:

This is my final draft of the reflective piece. "Study Guide" is a comical piece about high school. All of the facts and fictions are relevant to me. My audience was originally incoming freshman, but I soon realized I wanted to gear this towards current high schoolers and recently graduated kids. They may already know everything but they could at least get a good laugh out of my writing. This leads me to my purpose, which was to provide a few laughs as well as advice. I feel that my piece is very organized; the fact and fiction was neatly done. I also like how personal this was. Everything I wrote was true for me. I found this easy to write because of that. I had predictions about high school; a majority of them were false and I'm glad I had the opportunity to write about them. Since I am a senior it seemed suiting for me to write about high school since I will be graduating in May. My least favorite part about this piece is definitely the lack of humor. I am by no means a humorous girl, and so it was difficult to add comedy into this. I wanted my paper to be entirely comical, but ended up adding some seriousness to it. After many drafts I found the perfect balance between the two. *that's fine*

The facts and fictions are the body of my paper. I made each one bold and centered it. I did this so when a reader was skimming through it they would immediately see each the facts and fictions. I rotated between fact and fiction because I wanted my audience to understand the truths and false^{hoods} of high school.

I worked on this paper not only in class, but out of class as well. My group peer edited three drafts and that helped me a ton. I made the corrections they suggested and strongly believe this paper is written to the best of my ability. I can safely say I am proud of this reflective piece. For all these reasons I feel that I deserve an "A."

Michaela Hendricks

Study Guide

When I entered high school, I had a sound image of what it would be like. Most of my notions were based off of movies such as *Mean Girls* and *High School Musical*. Looking back on that now, I realize how naïve it was for me to believe any of that ridiculousness. Over the course of my high school experience, I have noticed no one wears pink on Wednesday, and I have yet to meet a basketball player who proudly will sing "We're All in This Together." There have been some strong facts and fictions I have learned during high school.

Good play to take

FACT: Some people are not going to like you, and they won't have a reason for it.

Just remember, even Jesus had haters! If you learn this fact, your high school experience will be much easier. Trying to make everyone like you will only make them dislike you more. So cherish the true friends. Everyone knows it's better to have four quarters than one hundred pennies.

nice

FICTION: Stereotypes are true.

This always hits home for me. My blonde hair comes with the blonde stereotype. Just because I'm blonde doesn't mean I'm lacking intelligence. Blonde hair isn't this helmet that keeps all knowledge out!

perhaps an exaggeration more specific details to highlight your message

FACT: The pencil you lent someone will never be returned.

Though the lendee may say, "I'll give it back to you after this class, I promise," your chances of having a shark attack the day you win the lottery are greater than seeing that pencil of yours. So,

make sure you have an unhealthy amount of writing utensils because those things disappear faster than you can say, "Supercalafragileisticexpalladosous."

When the pen is out of the box

FICTION: While in public, people are not staring at your uniform.

Uniforms will forever and always be comfortable, but they will never be in style. You have your entire life to stress out about outfits, ~~So~~ don't do that now; throw on a polo and go to school. Do not be afraid to be seen in public with your uniform on. Though they stare, people will understand that you did not willingly pick out such an unflattering outfit.

FACT: The person with the nicest car always gets stuck driving.

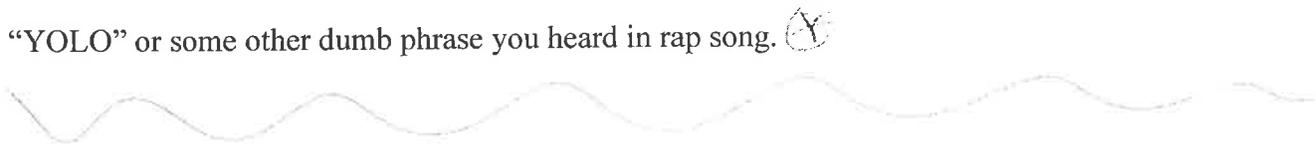
Trust me, I have a jeep and it's probably the only reason I have friends. There's just something about a topless jeep that attracts passengers. So, if you are cursed -I mean blessed- with a cool car, just know that you will be doing most of the driving.

FICTION: There is time to go to the bathroom between classes.

Unless you are a boy or an extremely fast girl there just are not enough seconds in five minutes. 300 seconds will never be enough time to go to your locker, socialize, use the washroom and then make it to class before the bell rings. But you are in luck! Many teachers recognize this and will allow you to go during class. Just a tip, do not take advantage of this privilege.

FACT: Remember ^{when} what your mother always asked you, "If your friends jumped off a bridge would you jump too?" The answer to that question should always be "no."

Ladies!

If you go to any high school, you will be caught in at least one moment where you know you shouldn't do something. If you know you should not do something, don't do it. Don't say "YOLO" or some other dumb phrase you heard in rap song. 

FICTION: You will get lost in the school.

Most high schools, especially Pius X are easy to navigate. It will take you a week at the most to know your way around the school. My freshmen year, I was nervous about this the most. Many kids are not used to big schools and the idea of multiple halls and floors can be overwhelming.

FACT: Rumors spread faster in a hallway than a fire does in a forest.

Your classmates will thrive on unbelievable secrets about you. As terrible as it sounds, teenagers like to hear about other teenagers' misfortunes. And no matter what the truth may be, they always will believe what they want to believe. Rumors, just like a fire, eventually are put out. It could possibly take days, but it will extinguish.

FICTION: Popularity is important.

Of course it feels great to be liked, but it feels even better to like yourself. I am by no means "cool," but I would not trade my life for anything. Make sure you like your friends, can have fun with them, and are the kind of friends you would be proud to call yours.

FACT: There is a hierarchy.

Little freshmen don't be discouraged. The time will come when you get to stand in the front at football games, but even when you are a senior, there's that possibility of being mistaken as a freshmen. Just last week, I was walking down the hall and someone told me, "Move freshmen!"

After four years of hearing that, it still hurts.

*in this paper is the only section
when you don't make an optimistic note so
it's done on a hand. Can you fix
it?*

*Have a
consistent
spelling*

FICTION: Senior year will be a breeze!

This is probably the biggest lie I have ever heard. Everyone who told me this, I despise.

Although this senior year has so far been a blast with many memories made, it definitely has not been easy. For example, this class, Creative Writing, I assumed would be a fun, easy class to take my senior year. Boy, was I wrong! This class is fun, but it is not easy. Make sure you know details about the course you are signing up for. The best way to do this is by talking to an upperclassman. They will be able to give an honest opinion.

Many people are firm believers on high school being the best time of your life. I am one of those believers. These past few years have taught me about myself and others. I made many new friends and made terrific memories with them. For every fact or fiction, I think I have learned something truly useful. My high school experience may not be movie quality but I think it has been a great time so far.

(F)