

# **COLLEGE IS DIFFERENT THAN HIGH SCHOOL**

Filename: College is Different (atr5067)

by Adam Rosenthal

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## **SPEAKER**

Ruth Pflueger was the guest speaker in our electrical engineering seminar class from the Learning Resource Center on September 2, 2009. She is the director of the LRC and oversees the operation of the program in the Lilley Library and in many other locations on the Behrend campus.

## **LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER**

The Learning Resource Center has student tutors who are normally upperclassmen with good GPAs who tutor students as a job or part of work-study. There are tutors in math, English, science, and in a few engineering departments at this point. The tutors in the LRC normally review the student's work and verify the form used to complete the assignment noting errors or questionable clarity and help you to fix these issues. The LRC tutors are very useful and can help a lot in completing assignments correctly. Appointments can be scheduled beforehand, but there are drop-in hours as well. Hours of the LRC tutoring in the Lilley Library, in the Math Lab, and in Math and Writing can be found on the Behrend website.

## **MAIN POINT**

The main point of Ruth Pflueger's lesson was to inform new students of the difference between high school and college, what to expect in college classes, how to take notes and how to study for tests. Ruth stressed that all of these study habits are very important for freshmen to learn and understand and that getting through college is almost impossible without using the right learning techniques.

## **SUMMARY OF LESSON**

Mrs. Pflueger began with talking about the opportunities and requirements involved with studying abroad. She spoke about how there is funding available to students who do decide to study abroad and it is awarded whether it is need-based, grade-based, or neither of the two. Next, she spoke about the Learning Resource Center, giving the office hours, locations and usefulness of it.

After moving on from the studying abroad program and the LRC, she talked about the first main difference between high school and college. This main difference is that, on average, a high school student spends about 30 hours a week in class while a college student spends 13 1/3 hours a week in class. The high school student spends time in class working on learning material in all classes while depending almost entirely on the teacher. The learning almost entirely takes place in the classroom. The college student spends a shorter time in class and depends on the professor in class to get the main points and some examples of the ideas being learned. The high school

teacher will slow down and re-explain ideas if they are not being understood, while the college professor will be highly unlikely to do so. Out of class, the high school student may spend an average of ten hours a week on class work while the college student will spend an average of twenty-six and two-third hours a week on class work.

In college, professors teach in abstractions, or core principles of the subject being taught and though these are the majority of what is put into the lessons being taught, they are not where learning truly takes place. Learning and real understanding takes place in the details and/or examples spoken of in lectures and the application of them where you really understand what it is that you are studying. Core principles in the lectures of each professor consist of recall and comprehension, application, analysis, evaluation, and synthesis. The core principles are what the professor teaches and expects the students to fully understand and use. In high school, students are used to only being tested on recall, comprehension, application and analysis but these areas don't allow complete learning of the material. In college, students are tested on recall, comprehension, application and analysis but also evaluation and synthesis which the extras that the student must take responsibility for. Students should fully understand the material to the point that they are capable of evaluating work to see what is correct and what is not and also to be able to synthesize the material with other material being learned in the same class, in other classes, and in the rest of life.

Another difference is that college students must study for tests differently than in high school. The student in college must study material by not only going back over notes and homework already completed but also thinking of more situations in which to find a solution to show that the student fully understands what they are studying.

The fact that learning is fully dependent on how much work you are willing to put into it is one more thing that is different in college. The student must put a whole lot of effort into leaning if he or she wants to get a real education. Professors and tutors are always available to help with this process if bumps in learning arise but each student is responsible for getting help if it is necessary. Professors in college don't push students through getting an education like teachers do in high school.

## **REACTIONS TO LESSON**

I am grateful that Mrs. Pflueger spoke and believe that her talk on the difference between high school and college agreed with all that I have experienced so far and/or have heard from other students in college. I have not experienced everything in college yet though, so I will trust her suggestion. I now understand how much work is involved in college and I am feeling fully willing at this point to put the necessary time and effort into receiving the best college education that I can get. It was very necessary for Mrs. Pflueger to discuss in the classroom this essential information with new students that are starting college careers.