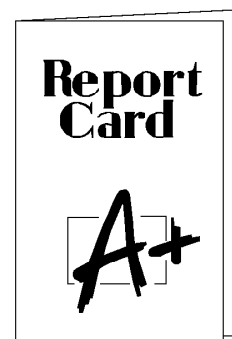


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### **Professors or Parents?**

Are college students responsible enough to decide whether they should go to class or not? College students are not little kids anymore. Parents do not take us to school, do not make us breakfast and do not do our laundry anymore. Be a college student means that we got to a certain age where we are responsible for our own actions and become a lot more dependent on ourselves. Most of the students now live by themselves and have to face problems and make decisions that would prepare them for the future, the “real world.” One of the decisions should be whether they want to attend a class or not. Attendance should not be mandatory for undergraduates because each student should know what is better for them and assume the consequence of not going to class. There are many reasons why students should not be punished for not attending a class. For example, if a student has a mishap, has other events related to school or just want to take a day off from school. Whatever the reason is, students have to hope the professor understands and allows them to miss a class.

“Life happens... Even today, there are some classes where the professor states there are no excused absences. Do these conditions even seem remotely fair?” wrote Eric Miller in “Coming Up With Better Excuses”. You never know when a mishap is going to happen until it happens. For example, if a student is sick he or she should



take care of him or herself and stay at home. According to my classmate, Matthew Pecker, “Students that are sick go to class which makes things even worse”. Professors are not doctors to decide whether a student should stay at home or come to class.

In the case of events related to school, there is no doubt students should be allowed to miss class. Sometimes attendance policy is too strict. For example, one of the policies says, "Students taking courses with regularly scheduled examinations cannot use that fact as basis for missing a regularly scheduled class that meets at the same time as the examination". The students have to either miss the exam or miss the class. WVU should let the students know about any conflict they could have with their classes before they register for them.

College students have to dedicate time to other activities also. Many of the students are involve in other activities such as sports, social work or they simply have a job. Social life is very important for students too. Sometimes being involved in so many different activities makes you tired and taking a day off from school is a way to have some rest. It could be an arguable reason but students are the one’s who are paying for school so teachers should not punish them for that. On the other hand, they should encourage the students to come to class by making classes more interesting and interactive.

Some classes could also be too easy for some students. In this case students could miss a class and still get a good grade in it. As long as they keep up with the work and get good grades the student should not be required to attend to class. Another case could be if the



teacher is hard to understand. In that case it would be easy to study by ourselves instead of going to class a waste time listening to someone who cannot help us at all.

In brief, there are many reasons why attendance should not be mandatory for undergraduates. Although there is a correlation between attendance and grades, students should have the right to decide if they want to go to class or not, knowing the consequences of their decision. Whether there is a good reason or not students are supposed to be mature enough to analyze their own situation and decide what is better for them.