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7 Feb. 2018

### Essay 1: Transition to Adulthood

Society generally views one as an adult upon the age of 18, and legal privileges and responsibility are doled out abruptly. Although someone may be legally considered to become an adult on their 18th birthday, you typically makes the actual transition into a life of responsibility due to significant pressures and expectations rather than age. While maturity tends to come with age, it is not a certainty. Personally, social and academic pressures, rather than formalities have gradually thrust me into adulthood. The high expectations placed on me by the rigorous AP courses offered at Garnet Valley have taught me the importance of balance and responsibility, which are essential to adulthood.

One of the most challenging aspects of growing is learning to be responsible and take accountability for your actions. These values are taught from a young age, but the heightened demand placed upon AP students makes responsibility essential for success. Late work, low effort, and lack of dedication that would typically be acceptable in lower level classes will not be tolerated and grades will suffer. This sink or swim environment forces you to grow as a person and become more responsible, or fail. This motivated me to hold myself accountable for my actions in academics, and in the rest of my life. The shift in expectations forced me to better myself and become more responsible in every aspect of my life.

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Maintaining a balance between academics, sports, social activity, and relaxation is incredibly difficult and requires significant time management skills. Previous to undertaking an AP curriculum my time management skills were subpar, as little time needed to be dedicated to my classes and I could get away with procrastination. Suddenly, significantly more effort was demanded from me and in order to be successful I had to learn to balance my schedule to be the most productive possible. This serves as preparation for adult life, as the ability to carry out several responsibilities at once is crucial to adulthood. Difficult classes have taught me how to better manage my time, stop procrastinating, and have balance in my life.

The academic enrichment I have received throughout my school years have greatly shaped me as a person, and as a result have influenced my intellectual growth and maturity over the years. Participation in school sports has taught me the value of teamwork, dedicated teachers have given me the thrill of learning the power of passion, and my classmates have taught me the meaning of friendship and kindness. A majority of who I am as I person has been an outcome of my schooling, therefore it is only logical that academics would be the driving force behind my entry to adulthood. These taught values have been further emphasized by the more rigorous courses offered by Garnet Valley, which has fundamentally shaped my path to adulthood.