

Sofian, Indra. "The Problem with High School." *Medium*, 2019,

<https://medium.com/@indrasofian/the-problem-with-high-school-caf770c87797>.

Accessed 25 January 2022.

This source provides insight around the common critiques of high school. I figured that if I am to ask others to reflect on their high school experiences, I should also become more knowledgeable on the culture around American high school. The author of this article, Indra Sofian, writes about the lack of real life applicability and relevance to student interests in high school curriculum. This strict focus on curriculum has led students to believe that doing well in high school and college is the only way to succeed in life. Sofian states that "students forget roughly 60% of what they learned in high school right before they even enter college."

Travis, Abi. "19 Lies Movies Told Us About the High School Experience." *22 Words*,

https://twentytwowords.com/lies-movies-told-us-about-the-high-school-experience/?utm_source=influencer1&utm_medium=cpc&utm_term=influencer&utm_content=3190&umtsede=1jnf6&umtctd=bGxsbjNpNnhocGRucHg2. Accessed 25 January 2022.

At first, I didn't think I would get much from this site. It's formatted very casually with an overwhelming amount of gifs inserted, but it raised some good points about the misrepresentation of high school in movies. One of these points is that the cliché stereotypical roles assigned in high school leads kids to believe that they cannot be multifaceted individuals. In the movies, a jock is not often smart and girls who have a lot of sex are mean, but this trope is

simply not true. Additionally, due to the often significantly higher age of actors that portray high school students, the awkwardness and dysregulation of puberty is ignored, and appearances are overly focused on. These movies can mislead students into believing that they should be fully developed with beards, abs, and clear skin.

Schuster, Teresa. "Society Forces Children To Grow Up Too Fast Causing Negative Effects." *The*

Reporter: The Student Newspaper at Miami Dade College, 29 March 2019,

<https://mdcthereporter.com/society-forces-children-to-grow-up-too-fast/>. Accessed 25 January 2022.

I selected this article because I am constantly hearing about how "kids are growing up too fast nowadays." My question for this article is; if kids are no longer kids, then what is the social role of high school, and why do people feel this way? The article names one of these causes as social media, and the young age of many users. Being on social media makes kids more susceptible to cyberbullying and changes their expectations of how they should look and act, therefore forcing them to grow up quicker. The author, Teresa Schuster, notes that "telling [kids] to focus on the future, perhaps of being admitted to an elite school or becoming famous on social media, also tells them that the present isn't as valuable. But it is. Experiencing childhood is essential to kids' development, and playing with stuffed animals or legos is just as important."

Morin, Amanda. "Developmental Milestones for Teens." *Understood.org*,

<https://www.understood.org/articles/en/developmental-milestones-for-typical-high-schoolers>. Accessed 25 January 2022.

This article talks about the developmental timeline of high school students, which I thought could be helpful because it showcases growth in physical and emotional maturity, which is the core of my project. In high school students are getting used to changes in their body, such as increased appetite and a need for more sleep. At the same time, students are exploring their perceptions about the world around them and what they desire for their role in the world to be. Throughout high school, students typically further their communication skills and learn to analyze their own feelings.

Ponnuru, Ramesh. "What Is the Purpose of High School?" *National Review*, 25 July 2019, <https://www.nationalreview.com/magazine/2019/08/12/what-is-the-purpose-of-high-school/>. Accessed 25 January 2022.

Most high schools are under the belief that a successful life means being a college graduate, so they operate under the assumption that students will strive to go to college. With this assumption, the school often attempts to prepare students for college, not necessarily for adulthood.

The reality is, college doesn't work for everyone, and everyone has a different timeline. Perhaps our standards for high schools shouldn't just be about college prep, but life prep, in which we learn to drive, do our taxes, make house repairs, explore different career paths, and learn to responsibly vote.

Cook-Deegan, Patrick. "Seven Ways to Help High Schoolers Find Purpose." *Greater Good Science*

Center, Berkeley, 11 January 2016,

https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/seven_ways_to_help_high_schoolers_find_purpose.

Accessed 26 January 2022.

With the previous source questioning the purpose of high school, I thought I would read a different article written by someone who has a nontraditional approach to high school. Author Patrick Cook-Deegan suggests that high school should assist students in figuring out their purpose. According to Cook-Deegan, heavy focus on grades leads students to value external achievement over internal motivation. Furthermore, the grade ranking system fuels a competitive nature between students and perfectionism. The former principal of freshman at Stanford University, Julie Lythcott-Haims, agrees with this criticism, saying "Hell-bent on removing all risks of life and on catapulting them into the college with the right brand name, we've robbed our kids of the chance to construct and know their own selves." If kids frequently find school boring and stressful, maybe it is because the high school system is not designed for kids to pursue their passions, but the school's.

Orakwue, Nia. "Critiquing the Unrealistic Portrayal of High School." *The Liberator*, 21 August

2019,

[https://lasaliberator.com/1582/commentary/critiquing-the-unrealistic-portrayal-of-high-sc](https://lasaliberator.com/1582/commentary/critiquing-the-unrealistic-portrayal-of-high-school/)

[hool/](https://lasaliberator.com/1582/commentary/critiquing-the-unrealistic-portrayal-of-high-school/). Accessed 26 January 2022.

I chose this article because it talks about the role that the media plays in misrepresenting

the

high school experience, which I think can often scare incoming students and change their beliefs about what kind of person they should be in high school. Media often oversexualizes high school students, and while sex is completely fine and normal, it shouldn't be something that pressures students. While there can be plenty of drama in high school, it's not the same as the drama in the movies, which makes sense because movies are fake whereas students are kids undergoing a complex phase in their life. As author Nia Orakwue puts it, "High school is not a story of rampant drama, but a chance at experimentation and self discovery."

Bracy, Ganiah, Interview. By Yohanna Heyer. 27 January 2022

I decided to conduct a sample interview so that I could get some interviewing practice in and so I could figure out what kinds of follow up questions I may need to ask. I interviewed Ganiah Bracy, who I will probably interview later on for my film. She said that her expectation of high school was more freedom and independence, and she thought it would be somewhat like High School Musical, where everyone talks to each other and has fun all the time. She said, in reality, she had to learn to manage her time, navigate friend and family relationships, and learn to stop procrastinating. She learned that you can only control yourself and your reactions to situations and wishes she knew to take care of herself and develop a good routine.

Nashville Film Institute. "Film Editing: Everything You Need To Know." *Nashville Film Institute*, <https://www.nfi.edu/film-editing-s75-backup/>. Accessed 28 January 2022.

I thought it could be helpful to learn some new things about the editing process before I begin so that maybe I will go in with new ideas. The article began with a list of terminology, some of which I knew, like establishing shot, and others I didn't know, like iris. The article reinforced the importance of only including footage that aids the storyline and keeping sound levels consistent. I learned about match cuts and cross-cutting. I don't think cross-cutting will be helpful to me for this film, but match cuts could be used to keep the viewer engaged and aid with transitions.

StudioBinder. "30 Cinematography Techniques You Won't Learn in Film School." *StudioBinder*, 17 December 2020, <https://www.studiobinder.com/blog/cinematography-techniques-no-film-school/>. Accessed 28 January 2022.

I figured it would be useful to read even more cinematography techniques, so I chose this guide that includes examples from well known cinematographers. One of the tips included was to play around with lenses, which I will take into consideration because I haven't explored much with them. I also plan on experimenting with depth, light, and color. The article suggested taking inspiration from great cinematographers such as John Ford and Roger Deakins, to take creative risks, and to stay organized with shot lists. This article, just like the prior one, stressed the importance of storytelling.