

## WHAT I LEARNED IN COLLEGE

500-1000 Words

In the future people will be looking at your transcript as a record of your mastery in particular scholarly fields or academic subject areas. But two people could take the same list of courses . . . and even receive identical grades and have very different learning experiences. Consequently those two people should be able to promote themselves and appeal to potential audiences as having very different kinds of expertise.

Here are three questions that should help you get started writing this short reflective essay. You do not need to answer all of them, but you might want to choose at least one question to answer as a way to organize your essay.

1. What doesn't your transcript say about what you actually learned in college and how you might be different from another UCSD graduate with the same major?
2. How is "learning" in college defined? Where are the boundaries? You may have learned more from extracurricular activities, from organizing campus events, from your practicum or research or clinical or fieldwork experiences for your major, from collaborating with peers or mentors, or from other opportunities to improve your "social intelligence" by being sensitive to new rhetorical situations and learning how to solve problems creatively.
3. How does college function as a "public" of the kind that boyd describes. (And, yes, "danah boyd" is always written in lower case, so that is not a typo.) Did your experience at UCSD help you "make sense of the social norms that regulate society" or did it help you learn to express yourself and "learn from the reactions of others" or did it make "certain acts of expressions 'real' by having witnesses acknowledge them." How does college let you try out new identities and test people's reactions? What differences do you see between the "you" you want to be as a graduating senior and the "you" who entered UCSD as a freshman or transfer student.