

# Senioritis

- Shanna Smith

Seniors have a reputation for being the “lazy ones” in high school. With junior year finished, standardized tests taken, and high school’s end just months away, why would seniors do anything but live every minute of their senior year?

This was my preconceived view of senior year. Everyone gets the notion that seniors constantly slack off because it really does not matter what they do; their future is set. This is one of the most horridly wrong rumors I have ever heard.

First of all, standardized tests are not over. While a select few have managed flawless SAT scores, the majority of high school students have not. Most students are advised to take one last shot at the SAT or ACT senior year to make certain they’re sending colleges their best work.

Not only do seniors still take standardized tests, but they also must complete the most difficult part of their application: the college essay. This essay can make or break a college acceptance. A few individuals, who the rest of the grade envies, have perfected their essay before the start of senior year. However, many seniors’ college essays are still in their embryonic stage. Seniors must complete one of the most important parts of their application senior year; they do not get to simply slack off.

College essays aren’t the only thing seniors must be conscious of. Junior year is over, but that does not mean that grades are over. Senior year grades do matter. Colleges not only see first quarter, second quarter, and end of year grades, but some may base admissions decisions off of them. For example, if a straight A and B student receives an F in history third quarter, a college can revoke its acceptance. If this happens after the student has committed to that college, he has no other options.

Not only do senior grades count, but many seniors know they count. Many seniors in fact take on more difficult classes than ever before. I am currently taking double the AP classes that I took junior year and, as a result, I have even more homework than I did last year – which I didn’t even know was possible until last month. This is not uncommon amongst the seniors at Marblehead High School. Many others like me are taking on a huge work load, school sports, school clubs, a job, and other activities on the side.

Which brings me to the final rumor: seniors’ futures are set. Just because standardized tests, applications, and 7/8 of seniors’ grades are sent to colleges by the end of first semester, that does not mean that seniors do whatever they want second semester. In fact, our minds will be constantly plagued with one of the worst feelings of them all: anxiety.

The four month time interval between submitting regular decision applications and receiving acceptance letters is by no means “the lazy period”. We will constantly wonder which schools have accepted us, which school we will choose from that list, and we will continually pray that

we are good enough. We also must be productive; seniors must keep up their grades so they don't get denied from their dream school weeks after being accepted.

And even once we are accepted, our futures are the farthest from set in stone. What will we major in? What will our roommates be like? Will we get homesick? And most importantly: is the college we chose the right fit?

We do not live a carefree senior year; seniors do not have the chance to be lazy.

So then what is senioritis? It is a result of the exhaustion from all of this. Not all seniors suffice to this disease, however. Of course seniors take every chance they have to make their senior year as memorable as possible. But this does not mean that we ignore our future; we multitask. Many of us still study for tests, take on extracurriculars, and eagerly learn from our teachers, as well as fill out applications and constantly stress over our future. The fatigue that accompanies this is why all seniors are labeled as victims of senioritis.

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