The transition to college for us, the students, can be very difficult for most coming from high school. College give us more freedom but requires more work to be done outside of the classroom rather than inside. We must decide to change our habits during the first semester or continue the same habits that have been learned and used in high school. During my first semester of college I plan to make changes with some strategies stated in “The Transition to College Writing” by Keith Hjortshoj.

Keeping a student planner will be a very important habit for me to develop this first semester and continue through my college career. My student planner will have blocks that will layout and organize time available for classes, studying, doing assignments, and free time. I will also mark important dates as early as possible to make sure that I will be on top of my work. Having a student planner will allow me to be flexible and efficient with my time; it will help me organize how much time I should spend for doing work in each of my classes.

I also plan to find a group of people to work on assignments with and study outside of class. An advantage of having a study group is being able to collaborate with other students and having help on demand when we get stuck. This will help me learn class material more quickly and efficiently than just working by yourself. I can find these organizations by looking for student organizations that may be interesting or fit my needs. I could also find other student in the classroom to work on assignments or study together.

The last habit that I will change is to not procrastinate and start assignments early. In high school I often procrastinate without any consequences. In college that habit will no longer work to be successful. As soon as I am given an assignment or reading I will begin to work on it. This will allow me to ask questions on portions that I am confused about. Starting early gives me more time with the material so I can learn it better and be prepared for exams, rather than cramming then not knowing the correct information. I believe that not procrastinating is the most important habit for college.

In conclusion, I plan to make changes with new strategies and study habits during the first semester of college. I plan to achieve this by using a student planner, study groups, and not procrastinating. I will use my freedom wisely and finish this semester with all A’s. I will not continue to use the habits that I used in high school because I know these are not qualities of a successful college.