The story of Eduardo and Maria shows how difficult the transition from college from to high school can be for some, while being easy for others. It also shows how different our transition from college to high school is individually. Three significant differences between Eduardo and Maria are their backgrounds, college experience and adapting methods.

Eduardo’s background is different from Maria’s because he comes from an impoverished urban neighborhood and attended a public school that sent a low percentage of its students to college (Hjortshoj, 2009). Maria comes from a wealthy suburban family and attended an exclusive private high school, designed to prepare students for admission to competitive colleges and universities. Eduardo also comes from a single mother, whose native language was Spanish and had little formal education. As a result, he had low verbal test scores (Hjortshoj, 2009). Maria had advanced placement courses and high test scores.

Even though Eduardo’s background did not prepare him for college; he still excelled and was very successful in college. He didn’t even experience the exhaustion or stress associated with transitioning into college. He had a 4.0 gpa at the end of the semester. In contrast, Maria experienced a lot of turmoil in her transition; despite her large amount of studying and trying to memorize her course material. She still managed to fail her first exam and complete the semester with C (Hjortshoj, 2009).

Eduardo’s key to a successful transition was a combination of alertness and flexibility. He looked at every assignment and course differently. He made note of what was expected, what he needed to do and when he needed to do it (Hortshoj, 2009). He also made sure he didn’t confuse his college courses with high school and that he didn’t confuse his classes and assignments(Hortshoj, 2009). He observed the similarities between courses as a way of making learning more efficient(Hortshoj, 2009). He also made sure he never confused the meaning of reading, writing, studying and being a good student in high school with the meaning of reading, writing, studying and being a good student in college(Hjortshoj, 2009). He maintained good time maintenance and knew every teacher’s expectations.

Maria, on the other hand, had expectations of what college was going to be like she assumed all she had to do was remember and work hard. She relied on simple writing formulas she had learned in high school causing her to miss the point of her assignments (Hjortshoj, 2009). She read to memorize instead of reading to learn. She also often confused high school methods with college methods.

*In conclusion, Eduardo and Maria’ s transition periods were very different. Maria had a very difficult transition period. Even though, she attended a school that would prepare her for college. She was in no way prepared for what was coming her way. Eduardo had an easy and stress-free transition period; despite his academic background. Where he attended a school with a low percentage of students going to college. Their methods were also different Eduardo took an easy and flexible approach to entering college. In contrast, Maria who decided to go for what she knew and stick by what she had been taught in high school.*

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