The [One-and-Done rule](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eligibility_for_the_NBA_draft#Later_history), instituted by the NBA in 2005, forces young athletes to play college basketball for at least one year before they can enter the NBA.  The rule was made in response to the growing number of high school athletes who were jumping right into the NBA and foregoing college. But it doesn't make sense and it doesn't benefit athletes or students. Allow me to explain why the One-and-Done Rule is completely illogical.

#### ****The “Lack of Maturity” Argument****

Here’s a thought no one has ever had: “Boy, 19 year olds are so much more mature than 18 year olds.” There are mature people, and there are immature people. Sometimes immature people mature. Sometimes they don’t, but I don’t see how a year of partying, playing basketball, and pretending to be a student is supposed to make players more mature.

#### ****The “Kwame Brown” Argument****

I’ve heard this one more than I expected while having this debate. Which was naive of me. The dude was a household name for the worst of reasons. But, how is he any different from a guy going to college for a year thenbeing a bust in the NBA? The difference is ESPN coverage. Here’s a long list of players who jumped to the NBA straight out of High School and had, at a minimum, moderately lucrative careers, if not spectacular ones:

Moses Malone, Darryl Dawkins, Dwight Howard, Shawn Kemp, Tracy McGrady, Rashard Lewis, Tyson Chandler, Amare Stoudemire, Josh Smith, JR Smith, Shaun Livingston, Andrew Bynum, Monta Ellis, Kevin Garnett, LeBron James and Kobe Bryant

Those are some really good players. What would one year of college really have done for any of these guys? Maybe I’m wrong, but I don’t think a couple semesters of being revered by thousands of classmates and treated like the school’s golden child would have made Dwight Howard a more grounded human being or made LeBron less of a pompous ass. Shawn Kemp could’ve learned something about contraception. I’ll concede that one.

#### ****The “College Game is Important for Player Development” Argument****

You know where else players can develop skills? The NBA Developmental League.And they can do it while making a healthy salary, rather than not getting paid to bring their school millions of dollars. If the NBA cared at all about player development, don’t you think they would use their own profitable league to do so, rather than referring athletes to the NCAA? Plus, the NBA D-League is trending upward as it is.

#### ****The One-and-Done Rule Defies Basic Logic****

Heath Ledger’s Joker famously said, “When you’re good at something never do it for free.”

While those words came from the mouth of a psychotic anarchist based on a cartoon, it is accurate. That’s just economics. You learn a skill, get good at it, and find a way to get paid for it. The lucky few are born with the skills they need. Who are we to tell someone they can’t use their considerable gifts for their own benefit? We started paying Justin Beiber for making music when he was like 14. The one-and-done logic isn’t applicable to any other scenarios in life, so why apply it here? It doesn’t matter if you’re 12 or 112.  If you can split two defenders with lightning quickness, [finish at the rim](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F5IOsDZ8CQM) with a one handed dunk over some seven-foot giant I will gladly pay to watch you play.

#### ****It's Bad for College Basketball****

The effect the one-and-done rule has had on the NCAA is understated. College basketball operated on the premise that student-athletes, for the most part, attended college for four years. Programs didn't have to worry about rebuilding the team at the end of every season. It was a reflection of what basketball is supposed to be. It takes more than one season for a team to reach their peak.

The Rule—as I will henceforth refer to it—impacts the college game negatively because it turns school's basketball programs into professional basketball mills. Look what John Calipari has done at the University of Kentucky. The country's top recruits go there for a year then hightail it to the NBA once the season is over. I want to see some dynasties! If that means letting the top high school prospects forego college, so be it. NCAA basketball has become a star system and we already have a better one of those. It's called the National Basketball Association.