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| Does A New Environment Mean A New Person?  Every year seniors graduate from high school, ready to embark on a new journey. Some go to work straight from high school, while others attend two or four year colleges and universities. When they leave for college, the general consensus of the students is that "they will not change unlike others in previous years." But when the students return home for Christmas Break, there are obvious differences. Being juniors last year Jessie and I were friends with a large proportion of the senior class. When they went away to college we began to notice a change in a great amount of them. For example, one friend, "Susan" who came home to visit from San Diego State University, wore much more make-up and her style of clothing was more risqué than prior to her new habitat. While a senior at Amador, "Susan" was a very religious and had a strong faith. She attended church almost every Sunday, was in a small group, and did devotionals every night. While talking to her during her winter break, she hadn�t gone to church at all during the year and she wasn�t in any type of a small group at college. A few friends that returned from California Polytechnic State University that had not previously been in the party scene were now in the party scene. While we were brainstorming for our project the topic came up and we decided it would be interesting to experiment with this topic. We wanted to know if it was limited to the few extremes mentioned above or if it was a common occurrence among college age students. We wanted to see if and how college students adapt to their environment.  Another reason why we chose this topic was while walking through the campus one day we noticed the vastly different cliques. We were curious and wanted to know if you were to throw another person into the group, if they would adapt to the new group or would they be shunned out or perhaps never "fit in". Also, from personal experiences, we notice that people are different when they are around different people. To one group they may come off as intellectual, but when they get around a different group of people, they become witty. Since it would not be feasible experiment to thrust people into different groups of friends and see how they react, we decided on the exploring the differences in college students since we know they have been put into a different environment, different people, it is the closest we could come to the scenario discussed above.  Natural selection is the major form of adaptation; it is what most people look at when they research how organisms adapt. Natural selection is the overall change in a species over time. We are interested in a small form of adaptation: how a person changes its behavior when thrust into an entirely different environment. While at home, living with parents, teenagers have a desire for freedom but at the same time restrictions from the parents. When they are removed from the parental environment, most teenagers have never experienced life without the rules and regulations parents have always set on them and are in a completely different environment. This new found freedom does have an effect on the changes a person experiences, but we question how large of an impact it has on first-year college students. We speculate what exactly changes these young adults. One thought is that it could just be the difference in people that causes this change. Some believe that human cognitive abilities have come about through the process of evolution.  The whole study of adaptation is based upon the hypothetico-deductive method, which is referred to as the scientific method. This is what we based our experiment upon. First there is a development of a scientific hypothesis, ours being If students go away to college, they will change based upon their new surroundings. One must be able to make predictions through deductive reasoning to test a hypothesis. The prediction is an expected outcome which can be observed and either verified or falsified.  ([Intro1](http://docs.google.com/introduction.html))([Intro2](http://docs.google.com/intro2.html))([Intro3](http://docs.google.com/intro3.html))([Intro4](http://docs.google.com/intro4.html))  [[Home](http://docs.google.com/home.html)][[Introduction](http://docs.google.com/introduction.html)][[Hypothesis](http://docs.google.com/hypothesis.html)][[Procedure](http://docs.google.com/procedure.html)][[Data](http://docs.google.com/data.html)][[Conclusions](http://docs.google.com/conclusions.html)][[Bilio/Links](http://docs.google.com/biblio.html)]  [[2002 Projects](http://docs.google.com/AP2002/index.html)][[2001 Projects](http://docs.google.com/index.html)][[2000 Projects](http://docs.google.com/AP2000/index.html)][[1999 Projects](http://docs.google.com/AP99/index.html)][[1998 Projects](http://docs.google.com/AP98/index.html)] |