1. Whose responsibility is it to make sure high school graduates are ready for college (parents, teachers, administrators, students)? Why? Be specific.
   * All parties mentioned have a stake in preparing students for college.
     1. Parents are the primary support system for students. They can help them make informed decisions about their academic path if they have experience with higher education.
     2. Teachers are responsible for instructing students on the benefits and expectations of college. They’re also responsible for helping develop students’ critical thinking skills and providing a strong academic foundation.
     3. Administrators play a role in shaping the curriculum to align with college expectations. They should ensure coursework prepares students for the demands of higher education.
     4. Students have a personal responsibility in taking ownership of their education. We must demonstrate a strong work ethic and self-discipline. Things like participation, timely assignment completion, and seeking assistance when needed are all essential skills to develop before entering higher education.
2. Did high school prepare you for college? Explain.
   * My high school experience left a lot of collegiate expectations up to our own research. I don’t feel I had the “proper” expectations for college life going in. I remember there hearing many allusions to college being a higher standard than high school, and the preparation I did for high school exams and assignments not being enough for college. I didn’t get prepared for the specifics of a college workload, or the time commitment required. My parents didn’t have a background in higher education, so I was mostly reliant on myself and teachers. I felt overwhelmed the first time I went to university, but this time around at CVTC, I feel much better about it.
3. We are socialized in our country that if you work hard, you can achieve anything. Do you feel this statement is true when it comes to college admission? Explain your answer.
   * I think hard work is a crucial part of achieving academic success and positively impacts college admission. It’s not the only factor that affects it, as no matter how hard some people work, college admission is influenced by academic achievement, standardized test scores, extracurricular activities, personal essays, and interviews. Not everyone is going to have the skills to succeed with these metrics, but they seem to correlate with the skills needed to succeed with higher education.
   * Structural and systemic issues like socioeconomic status, quality of education available, access to resources, and systemic inequality limit opportunities for some individuals, regardless of their level of hard work.
   * Privilege also plays a role. Some students have access to better educational resources and extracurricular activities. Some students’ families can flat out buy their way into higher education regardless of the student’s work ethic.
4. What is your overall reaction to the recent college admission scandals? Do you think parents of these kids should be punished by law? Explain your answer in-depth.
   * The recent college admission scandals bring forth the need for a fair and equitable admissions process. If parents are found to have broken the law, legal consequences are appropriate if they are found guilty. However, addressing broader systemic issues like examining the societal pressures surrounding college admissions, addressing inequalities in education, and fostering a more transparent admissions process, are more important as they address the root cause of the issue.