



Woodside Senior Reflections on Belonging



Belonging - I was able to find sub-communities within Woodside such as the Woodside Soccer team, my friend group, and the robotics team. Being in these various groups connected me to other people that thought the same way as me and contributed heavily to my personal and academic growth. Each served different purposes but collectively shaped my four years at Woodside significantly, and for the better I believe.

The most important condition for me was a sense of Belonging because when I first came here I didn't have a lot of friends outside of the ones from middle school and since freshman year I've made more and more friends from different schools of different backgrounds.

Belonging: I was a very shy person, who did not have the courage to talk with other people or to adults. However, Woodside gave me a sense of Belonging in this family, where many of my peers talked to me and teachers helped me understand many things during class. Freshman transition was a big help for me to grow out of my shell and make new friends.

The condition of Belonging played a role for me during my time at Woodside because I truly felt like I belonged here. This is my school and I never felt out of place.

One of the 8 conditions that was an underlying theme in my high school career was Belonging. I never really felt like I fit in one place until I met my group of friends, we are all so diverse in our own ways and that is why I belong.

Throughout this year in high school, there have been many conditions which helped me advance throughout these rough four years. The condition I could relate to most would be a sense of Belonging. It was always rough for me to fit in and make friends since middle school which made it rough for me to meet people due to having to transfer schools. I felt like Woodside High School helped me a lot to meet new people and help me move on to become more open.

At Woodside, I really felt like I belonged. On the track team, in my friend group, and in clubs I always felt welcome and comfortable.

I'd say Belonging is the most important condition for me because over the past four years I have developed a growing group of friends and teachers who have created a welcoming environment for me. Every year my friend group has gotten larger and everyone has made these four years a little bit more enjoyable. In every class I have taken I've found or made friends in the classroom and nobody has ever rejected me as a classmate or peer. I've just been welcomed into every class by the teachers and students to create a sense of belonging.



Woodside Senior Reflections on Heroes



The Heroes condition applied to me the most through my senior year. I came to a lot of obstacles throughout my year, and a couple of my teachers became Heroes. They helped guide me towards the right path, to stay focused on graduation, and gave me support/advice.

Out of the eight conditions, I believe the most important one to me would be "Heroes," because, throughout high school, I managed to meet people who later on became a hero to me. This condition made me realize that my teachers, friends and family have been huge role models, and have worked really hard to get me to where I am today. Before starting high school, I was able to meet Ms. Stefani, she is someone who understood my problems and helped me in any way she could. Not only did she help me improve my math skills, but she also helped me understand more. Someone else who has inspired me is Ms. Vazquez because throughout high school she has helped me make better decisions, and help me to have a bright future. In my time in high school, I was able to connect with teachers in a way that I was able to communicate with them, because it's really rare when I speak to teachers, Overall, I believe that Heroes is the most important condition to me, because if it wasn't for my friends, family and teachers I wouldn't be where I am today.



Woodside Senior Reflections on Sense of Accomplishment

The condition of success that resonates with me the most is Sense of Accomplishment. Throughout my years at Woodside I challenged myself by taking hard classes and participating in extracurriculars as well as community service. Challenging myself every year has allowed me to feel a Sense of Accomplishment as I have learned a lot and this has helped me on my path to a university. I was accepted into a good university which also helps me feel like I accomplished what I meant to do.

I think one of the most important conditions at Woodside is Sense of Accomplishment. I didn't notice the significance of this condition until junior year when I started working really hard to get better grades and fully engage in all my classes. After my transcript came home and I saw that I got straight A's I felt very accomplished and my motivation instantly increased. I think people do not understand this condition until they put in the work and wait for the outcome.

Accomplishment: Over the past four years, I have always been pushed to do more and more. Whether it was an AP or AS teacher encouraging me to take the next level of that AP class, or other students encouraging me to keep my head up through SATs, or anything similar to that. Although at times it was overwhelming, in the end everything turned out alright. In the end, I ended up with a good GPA and in a good college, and for that I am happy. In addition, the fact that many of the people around me (not all students, but the ones I chose to be with) helped push me, as I did not want to fall behind them. The general atmosphere that encouraged people to do their best really did what it was intended to do.

Belonging and Sense of Accomplishment have been important conditions for me in high school, both on sports teams and in my classes. On my water polo and lacrosse teams, I built friendships and felt a sense of Belonging for being part of an inclusive, positive environment. I also felt proud and happy to be recognized for my accomplishments, such as being voted most improved player in my first year of water polo and first team all league player in my second year of lacrosse. In school, my hard work paid off and I feel accomplished that I have maintained a GPA of 4.0 or above.

During my four years at Woodside, I feel that I achieved a Sense of Accomplishment throughout my extra-curricular activities and applications to my major. I was able to use my video editing skills to help out with Woodside daily announcements, which led to a job at my local church where I produced incoming presentations for services. By my junior year, I found an internship for a real estate company where I created videos for new listings while also managing their social media presence. These are all skills that I developed both inside a Woodside classroom and in my free time.

Sense of Accomplishment is very important for me, because throughout my years at high school this has helped me get passed many of my classes. Being able to say I passed a certain AP class and completed the senior thesis makes me not only proud of myself, but it shows me I can do anything if I put my mind to it. I want to thank Woodside High School for showing me this.



Woodside Senior Reflections on Fun & Excitement

One of the 8 conditions that played a big role in my years at Woodside is Fun & Excitement. It's important to me because I was extremely terrified to go in to a school where I didn't know anyone, but I've met many amazing people. For example, prom was probably my favorite; I had the best time in both junior and senior year.

Fun & Excitement was a part of my experience at Woodside High School. I met a lot of people on the way that helped me become who I am now. Throughout the four years those people made my best memories and we had tons of fun together along the way. Excitement is part of me becoming older and going into every new grade was me getting closer to becoming an adult.

Fun & Excitement was a really important condition for me in high school. I joined the Leadership class my sophomore year and it has been my favorite class of high school. Through leadership, I got to get involved with the school and meet new people, which made my experience more fun. Leadership allowed me to have fun and work hard at the same time, which I loved. We would get rewards for our hard work such as having socials and playing games, which I enjoyed a lot. This class really demonstrates Fun & Excitement and it has made my time here at Woodside so fun.

I had a lot of Fun & Excitement while taking 5 science classes at Woodside High School. I found that all of the science classes had interesting labs that we worked on and I still remember the pGlo lab from my Adv. Biology class freshman year.

The condition that played the most important role for me was Fun & Excitement. As I was learning I had so much fun because the teachers made it interesting and they tried not to make the assignments boring. I also felt excited to go to class due to the fact that my teachers were very outgoing and like I said previously, they made class fun.

Fun & Excitement was the most important condition to me. This condition positively motivated me and created a fun learning environment for me and my friends at Woodside. I enjoyed coming to school knowing that fun and exciting things were going to be incorporated in academics. I always looked forward to fun and educational activities that helped bond classmates together.



Woodside Senior Reflections on Curiosity & Creativity

Curiosity & Creativity are important in my life currently. I work hard, but it is important for me to remain curious no matter what. I love to be creative and this has driven me to think far out of the box in all of high school. I love to learn and this will continue to be with me my whole life. I want to always be learning and expressing myself in the way that I think suits me best.

For me, the most important condition through my time in high school has been Curiosity & Creativity. At Woodside, I spent a lot of my time exploring academic and extracurricular interests to find what intrigued me the most, and what I wanted to continue doing after high school. Being curious and being creative has encouraged me to push myself, trying new things but also reminding me of what I am most passionate about.

Curiosity & Creativity was important to me during high school because it was what has allowed to me to get as far as I have. My curiosity is what has led me to always want to learn more, beyond just what was taught in the classroom. With my curiosity, I always asked questions when I did not understand something, was not sure about an assignment or just to learn something new. It was my curiosity that led me to try new things, like robotics and other extracurriculars that helped me find where my interests lie and my major for college. Without this curiosity, I definitely would not have been as strong of an applicant for college, and would have changed the outcome of where I was accepted to.

Curiosity & Creativity is one of the 8 conditions that was important during my four years at Woodside. I spent three of my four years taking a studio art class which broadened my abilities and look on the world. I became much more creative as the years went on and I tried new techniques that I was curious about.



Woodside Senior Reflections on Spirit of Adventure

Spirit of Adventure has been a guiding condition for me over my four years here. Through a Spirit of Adventure, I have been able to try new things. If I did not have a Spirit of Adventure, I would have never joined the wrestling team, which I then enjoyed immensely, and I would have never gotten into jazz, which has changed my life.

Spirit of Adventure is the one condition that I believe played out throughout my four years at Woodside High School. In my opinion high school is a nonstop rollercoaster and you can never get off until graduation. Woodside has given me the opportunity to get out of my comfort zone and explore different things that I would have never thought I would accomplish. For example; joining the Business Academy, joining AVID, taking AP courses, and joining sports teams.

Spirit of Adventure was important for me in high school because throughout the years at Woodside I was willing to learn new things either in cooking class or in economics and explore new places through field trips.



Woodside Senior Reflections on Leadership & Responsibility

Leadership & Responsibility. Leadership was important to me in high school because the leadership class helped me step out of my comfort zone and learn what it meant to be an effective leader in the world. In the leadership class I also had much responsibility that was taken very seriously. I had to grow up fast and learn how to take responsibility for my actions, but also step up for others in a time of need. Leadership & Responsibility taught me how to be a better person and someone others would look up to and admire. I gained much knowledge in high school that I will carry with me throughout my life, especially how to speak up so that your voice is heard.

Leadership & Responsibility is the condition I associate most with my time in high school. All four years, I strove to be a leader in all of the different activities in which I took part. Whether as class treasurer, vice-president of the best buddies club, or BOSA president, Woodside gave me the opportunity to grow as a leader and develop my leadership skills, all while participating in activities that interested me. Over my time here, I have also seen other students fill leadership positions that may have made them uncomfortable at first, but ultimately helped them grow as an individual. The sheer range of activities at Woodside means that all students can find at least one thing that interests them, and then become leaders in their community through that activity.

Leadership & Responsibility is one of the most important Woodside conditions for me because I learned a lot about it throughout my high school career. During my time at Woodside, I participated in some programs and clubs that required a sense of Leadership & Responsibility. For example, as a sophomore, I was a tutor for a summer algebra course for incoming freshman. There were times in which I was expected to lead certain activities. I learned a lot of leadership through volunteering at this program.

I would say the condition that impacted me the most was Leadership & Responsibility. Throughout my years at Woodside I have learned that in order to be successful with what you do, you have to put forth your best effort and value your responsibilities. I realized that teachers are much more likely to notice a student if they are trying their hardest and putting in effort, so it is important to stand out as an individual. Additionally, I learned leadership through Dance Team where I was a Pom Leader, and through my various classes. I've had many opportunities to help others through leadership.



Woodside Senior Reflections on Confidence to Take Action

Confidence to Take Action: this has been important for me in high school because it has made me try new stuff and take more risks. Like this year I joined Leadership and Leadership was out of my comfort zone because it had to do a lot with public speaking and becoming a leader to people. Of course this was my first time doing this program but it has taught me a lot. Without it I don't think I would have developed the skills I have now. This year I had to public speak 3 or more times and that is nerve-racking for me but over the months I have gotten better. That's why this condition is so important to me.

Confidence to Take Action: I think this condition not only defines my personal experience but defines Woodside High School as a whole. The students here strive for success, just like me and when it comes to speaking up about something we believe is unfair, we take action. We have had walk-outs for political movements, gun violence, and unfair treatment. I have had the Confidence to Take Action on my future. Ever since freshman year, my goal was to be the first generation to go to college and make my parents proud. I told myself I would accomplish what I needed and take action to push myself through the hard times I once faced throughout my high school career.

Confidence to Take Action - During my time here, I felt like my confidence has grown as the years have passed. I'm still a somewhat quiet and reserved guy but I feel that my public speaking and interactions with others have gotten better. Being able to do presentations in front of a class and meeting new people is important because, in the future, I will need to be confident for job interviews or maybe presenting an idea in a meeting. I've learned that those who do nothing, gain nothing. My time at Woodside helped me realize that I have to take action to live life to the fullest.

The condition which resonated most with me throughout my four years of high school has been Confidence to Take Action. This has played a large role in my life as I have had to have the confidence to take control of my future and happiness by doing what I love. I came into high school, scared that I would be shunned if I did theatre, but I gave myself the confidence to continue with my passion. It has become my favorite thing to do

I think Confidence to Take Action is an extremely important one of the eight conditions because Woodside has always pushed students to take action, whether it was with themselves or helping others. They give out many, many different opportunities to take action and provide us with information in and outside of school. Throughout my senior year, I struggled and procrastinated to work on my plans for next year but there were so many people who were there to help me get to the next step, give me advice in order to make the best decision.