

Is Honors Elitist?

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Honors is elitist. It is also not elitist. The world tends to balance itself, and so do people. Honors is, by definition, elitist, but it is the attitudes of the students that concern me. I feel that for every Honors student who looks down on regular students, there are just as many who don't. When I talk to other students about elitism, they tend to react by saying either "Of course we are elitist; we have higher standards," or "Of course we're not elitist; we don't get all that much respect anyways." This is a generalization, but so is the idea that Honors students are inherently better or worse than any student. We are simply different. We are no more above or below any other student than an English student is to a Mathematics student.

In all but one of the Honors classes I have taken, the course work is no harder than the regular equivalent. The difference was in the phrase many of my Honors teachers have told me: "Work smarter, not harder." I am not saying we are smarter, but I am.

The elitist attitudes of some Honors students are why we are ignored or looked down upon by most students who qualify for Honors, but that is a minority of our group. Are we the "Philosopher Kings" a fellow Honors student once suggested we represent here? Well, not that big a deal, but sort of. The Honors program of a college sets the tone of the college. Honors programs were established in universities so they could compete with the Ivy League. Therefore, the Honors program does represent the best. We should try to represent our school how we see it: Humble but proud of our accomplishments. That tone is far more suited to a community college than one of pride and ignorance.