Rhetorical Précis: Conley Article

In the excerpt, “How College is Different from High School,” from the Introduction of the report Redefining College Readiness by Dr. David Conley, a successful education consultant and Professor at the University of Oregon, Conley asserts that the “expectations between high school and college are significantly different,” and that this disconnect in expectations creates challenges for both college students and faculty. Additionally, he calls for a re-evaluation of the way college readiness is assessed and approached so high schools can better prepare students for college in the future.

Conley develops his claim by first giving an overview of the “obvious--and not so obvious” differences between college and high school. Next he uses research to support his idea that “college readiness is fundamentally different than high school readiness” when it comes to critical thinking skills, pacing, writing skills, and student work ethic. By using a “common example cited by college faculty,” he shows that “cultural and social expectations” differ as well. Soon after, he poses a rhetorical question which prompts the reader to reevaluate the way college readiness is currently assessed. Finally, he briefly reflects on his report as a whole and then concludes by stating that a “more integrated approach to college readiness” should help high schools make “systematic changes” so future high school students will be prepared for college.