



Stanford Survey of Adolescent School Experience  
Palo Alto High School  
Fall 2017

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*3 words to describe your school*

Total number of students surveyed = 1474

Number of students who responded to this question: 1345

<b>CODE/ANSWER</b>	<b>EXAMPLES</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>STUDENT %</b>
Difficult or Stressful	Difficult, Stressful, Intense, Pressure, Hard	502	37.3%
Fun	Fun, Enjoyable	297	22.1%
Caring or Welcoming	Caring, Welcoming, Warm, Open, Nice, Inclusive	219	16.3%
Competitive	Competitive	218	16.2%
Spirit	Spirit, Spirited, Lively, Proud	175	13.0%
High Quality	Great, Awesome, Cool, Excellent, Good	160	11.9%
Challenging or Rigorous	Challenging, Rigorous, High Expectations	137	10.2%
Educational	Educational, Knowledge, School	130	9.7%
Big	Big, Large	100	7.4%
Diverse	Diverse	99	7.4%
Interesting or Engaging	Interesting, Engaging, Exciting, Vibrant, Exhilarating	96	7.1%
Too Much Homework	Homework, Busy, Long, Fast, Studying	93	6.9%
Bad or Negative	Bad, Annoying, Toxic, Awful, Horrible, Hell	82	6.1%
Friends	Friends, Friendly, Social, Outgoing	80	5.9%
Wealthy or Elite	Wealthy, Elite, Rich, Affluent, Money, Exclusive	76	5.7%
Academic	Academic	75	5.6%
Driven or Determined	Driven, Determined, Passionate, Ambitious, Hardworking	59	4.4%
Family or Community	Family, Community, Unity, Home, Cohesive	53	3.9%
Boring	Boring, Lame, Dry, Tedious	48	3.6%
Smart	Smart, Intelligent, Educated, Knowledgeable	47	3.5%
Successful	Successful, Advanced, High-achieving, Talented	46	3.4%
Average	Average, Okay, Alright, Fine, Mediocre, Decent	44	3.3%
Opportunity	Opportunities, Resources, Extracurricular, Well-rounded	39	2.9%

Superficial	Superficial, Fake, Pretentious, Materialistic, Gossip	34	2.5%
Drugs and Alcohol	Drugs, Alcohol, Juul, Weed, Vaping	30	2.2%
Motivating or Encouraging	Motivating, Encouraging, Enthusiastic, Involved	28	2.1%
Unique	Unique, Different, Weird, Strange	27	2.0%
Beautiful	Beautiful, Clean, New, Lovely	25	1.9%
Safe	Safe, Safety	25	1.9%
Athletic	Athletic, Sports	24	1.8%
Positive	Positive, Happy, Thriving, Optimistic	22	1.6%
Relaxed	Relaxed, Chill, Comfortable, Calm	20	1.5%
Not Diverse	Segregated, White, Racist	18	1.3%
Helpful	Helpful	17	1.3%
Independence	Independent, Freedom	17	1.3%
Ugly or Crowded	Ugly, Messy, Crowded, Loud	17	1.3%
Innovative	Innovative, Progressive, Experimental, Technology	17	1.3%
Sheltered	Bubble, Unrealistic, Secluded, Ignorant	16	1.2%
Liberal	Liberal	16	1.2%
Depressing	Depression, Anxiety, Sad, Emotional	14	1.0%
Controlling or Strict	Strict, Harsh, Uptight, Restricted	14	1.0%

**TOP TEN RESPONSES BY GENDER AND GRADE**

CODE	FREQUENCY	GENDER		GRADE			
		FEMALE	MALE	9	10	11	12
Difficult or Stressful	502	58.2%	40.7%	15.9%	30.9%	26.9%	26.3%
Fun	297	43.4%	53.4%	36.4%	29.6%	17.5%	16.4%
Caring or Welcoming	219	55.0%	40.6%	31.0%	23.2%	21.7%	24.1%
Competitive	218	61.0%	38.1%	10.1%	27.4%	27.9%	34.6%
Spirit	175	69.9%	29.5%	22.8%	25.2%	12.6%	39.5%
High Quality	160	34.9%	59.6%	33.8%	33.1%	18.2%	14.9%
Challenging or Rigorous	137	50.0%	49.2%	19.2%	26.2%	21.5%	33.1%
Educational	130	42.2%	51.2%	33.9%	35.5%	14.1%	16.5%
Big	100	51.0%	48.0%	49.0%	20.4%	18.4%	12.2%
Diverse	99	54.7%	42.1%	23.7%	32.0%	18.6%	25.8%

**Ns:** Female: 664. Male: 613. Unspecified: 197.

9<sup>th</sup> grade: 341. 10<sup>th</sup> grade: 377. 11<sup>th</sup> grade: 296. 12<sup>th</sup> grade: 311. Unspecified: 149.

Note: students who did not specify gender or grade level are excluded from the percentages.