

Visits to TJC & Coming Home

How You Can Make it a Positive/Fun Visit When You and Your Family Visit TJC

- Be sensitive to your student's needs and schedules
- Don't comment on the state of room or clothes or shaggy hair.
- Students expect to be able to continue their studying and social lives.
- Take them and their friends out to eat.
- Be positive – you're the guest.

"As your student prepares for a bigger world, it doesn't mean that you will be left behind. Freedom, independence, self sufficiency...these are all things that we wish for students. Yet, they will always need you. Allowing your relationship to evolve as your student dives into the college world requires compromise, flexibility and trust. With these tools at your side, the college experience can be a wonderful, eye-opening experience for you both."

- from *A New Chapter: How parents fit into their students' lives at college*, Paper Clip Communications

What Families Can Do to Make it a Good Adjustment When Students come Home from TJC

- First vacations are usually tense for all involved – if a long time between visits.
- Most students expect things at home to be like they left it, yet they want parents to recognize and respect that they have changed.
- They have been living on their own and have become more independent.
- A sense of balance and a sense of humor are needed.
- Modify some of the old rules in light of the increased freedom to which the student has become accustomed.
- Timing is important when wanting to have a serious discussion, i.e., grades.
- Begin with a simple open-ended question such as "What's happening in your life?" or "How are things going?"
- Parental anxiety often encourages parents to take another stab at trying to "set this kid on the right track."
- There is a certain sadness...even though they are home. A parent said, "Even though it's great to have them back, there's a certain sadness. You realize it will never be the same again; they are not totally home. They have a whole different world that is part of them, and there are only temporary visitors."
- The house is no longer quiet. Food goes faster, the phone rings lots; laundry increase. All this is small compared to the joy of reconnecting as a family.