

# What would Zion do?

Zion is a 15-year-old boy in high school, from California. He had just recently moved to Minnesota this summer. Like most kids in a new school, he is partially nervous. Moving to a new school, Zion's focus was excelling in all his classes and football. He was not interested in being one of the "cool kids." Zion was very focused on his education because, he wanted to be the first of 6 generations in his family to go to college thereby setting a good example for his younger cousins and siblings. He was highly interested in football not only because he loved it and was good at it, but, because he strongly believes football could get him a college scholarship. Though he came from a very well-respected family, however they were poor and wasn't sure if his parents could afford his school fees. Therefore, he planned to work extremely hard to earn a full football scholarship into college.

At first, Zion was doing excellently well in both football and all his classes. However, as the semester continued, he becomes overwhelmed. Football became very demanding, sometimes requiring him to be on the practice field till 7 pm, leaving him no time to study or even finish homework. After a couple of missed homework assignments and some noticeable drop in his grades, Zion's teachers become concerned. A meeting was held to find out what was going on with Zion, He explained to his teachers that most times he gets back from football late and very exhausted so he has no time to work on assignments. His teachers understood his problem and decided to give him a little less work to do at home since they knew what a good and hardworking student he was. So, Zion tried extra hard to finish his assignments on time, but then Zion started losing track of time while working or studying and getting to practice late. So, then his

coaches also became concerned, they started asking Zion why he was always late to practice. He explained that he was trying to improve his grades in school which was why he was always late, his coaches then allowed him to come to practice 30 minutes after everyone else arrived. But even after less work and less practice time Zion was still struggling to handle both football and education, Zion didn't know what to do at this point. He decided to meet up with one of his teachers Mrs. Person to discuss his situation, he explained that he had been given less work and less practice time but still struggled to handle both. Mrs. Person knew how much Zion's education and football meant to him, but she advised him to put one of the 2 at his top priority and not let one affect the other. Zion knew that he would have to do that, but he didn't know which he would focus more on, football which could get him a scholarship, or his education which could also help with college but also look good on his record. Zion didn't know which to choose, he knew if didn't choose one he would most likely not succeed at both.

Zion knew that this decision could affect the rest of his life, so he wanted to choose the right one for him. Throughout the year, Zion chose to focus more on football, because he was interested in a scholarship, and his grades were already fine and he wouldn't let the drop. The rest of Zion's high school was great, he excelled in football and still did great in his classes. Everyone was proud of him. During his senior year of football, he was offered a full scholarship into any college of his choice everyone was proud of him. Zion was beyond excited and couldn't wait to graduate. But Zion always thought about what might have happened if he chose education over football.

If u were Zion what would you choose, Education or football?