

Recitation A

The Senior Prom: A Night to Remember

A prom is a formal dance party for high school seniors. The word prom comes from “promenade ball,” a type of traditional dance where people wore the latest fashions and displayed their dancing skills. Parents and teachers in America thought that a prom was a good occasion for teaching young people how to behave in a formal environment.

In the past, organizing a school prom did not involve a great deal of planning or money. However, from the 1980s onwards, this changed dramatically. Today a prom is usually held at an expensive venue such as the ballroom of a hotel. A professional band or disc jockey provides the music. As a result, the cost of holding a prom is usually high. To fund the event, students often raise money through car washes, bake sales and so on.

Students attending the prom also spend a great deal of time and money getting ready. Girls buy luxury dresses, while boys can rent tuxedos. If two young people are attending the prom as a couple, the boy brings a flower corsage for his date. In many cases, limousines take students to the prom venue.

As students enter the prom venue, a professional photographer takes pictures of them. Refreshments such as canapés and fruit punch are on the table. Students dance through the evening to fast and slow songs. The highlight of the event is the crowning of the prom king and queen. They are the male and female students who have been elected by the students as the most popular couple of the school.

The senior prom is a rite of passage for adolescents in the United States. It is usually the last chance they will have to enjoy themselves with their schoolmates before starting college or a career. The prom signals the end of childhood and the beginning of adulthood, and therefore is truly a night to remember.

(316 words)