The Similarities and Differences between SAMOHI and LAHS

I had a chance to observe L.A High School, which was an extremely different school than my school, Santa Monica High School. My emotion was kind of a shock at that time. LAHS students had been treated too differently. Strict regulations, a disorderly school system, and a policy that keeps changing overnight controlled them. School is the first stage that everyone experiences. Therefore, it is the most important process for a student to be a good member whom social community needs. But LAHS did not provide students warrantable rights, which they deserve to have. Eventually it will have an effect on students' lives not only now but also in the future. At LAHS, students are guaranteed neither high quality teachers nor counselors, nor a safe and supportive school environment.

At LAHS, students are not guaranteed high quality teachers and counselors (right #4). For example, teachers didn’t have a caring attitude towards students. I attended the third period in LAHS. It was Physical Science. The teacher came into the classroom. All he did was just show the pupils a bunch of paper, and ask them to write those down for thirty minutes. After that, he showed students a childish video which I used to watch when I was in elementary school in Korea. At the end of the period, he said that he would not be in the classroom tomorrow, which was the day of the exam. I had never before seen a teacher who was absented on the day of a test. Suddenly, I was wondering what their grades were. I could not be surprised at their grade. Every pupil had Fs in that class, besides two students who had Ds. Of course, their average grade was F. He did not care even if they got F, and were subject to flunk that class. Moreover, he squinted at students with annoyance when they asked any questions. So all students could not even ask the teacher any question. They were forced to sit down as the teacher shouted, "Put your butt
down”. Their bad grades will make them unable to apply for a good university. They will not be able to have any chance to take pride in themselves, and they will be called losers of the world. Naturally, students' economic future may be in danger. School needs to be the place where students want to go eagerly. For if students feel like studying, they will be more successful in the class and in the future.

At LAHS students are not guaranteed a safe and supportive school environment (right #6). LAHS has its own policy that keeps students from being on time to class. If students go into class late without a pass, security can make them sit down on a bench for one hour. I couldn't say anything when I heard it from my partner. It was too strict and unbelievable. It was unreasonable that students had to stay for an hour even if they were late just one minute. I was convinced that security guards couldn't have that kind of abusive power. Students can be late for class because of their own circumstances. But LAHS has ignored students without giving any chance to excuse themselves. As a result, it causes a bad influence. Students won't like to go to school, when they are not treated with respect. For when they are compelled to sit on the bench, they think that they are treated like slaves, and it will cause them to resist schooling. This kind of merciless treatment makes students feel a sense of weakness, and lowers their pride. It would bring their grade down because students tend not to study if they are treated badly. Eventually, they will not be able to choose to go to college because of their low GPA, and will end up working.

During the class in the LAHS, I experienced many things, which were so different than SAMOHI. Mostly, the different things were worse things than SAMOHI. The worst thing, which has existed, was adult's rude behavior toward students. Students have their own rights and they deserve to keep them. I want it to disappear at LAHS. Including them, we all have to learn that stuff we learn in the
school influences the rest of life importantly because school is the first stage of social life we experience. Especially, I was surprised at LAHS because LAHS students are guaranteed neither quality teachers nor counselors, nor a safe and supportive school environment. I can't assure whether this problem will be fixed or not. But at least, I want LAHS students to fight for their rights.