

## 1. Opening & Structure

- Moderator (Naomi Katz Mintz) sets a reflective, conversational tone.
  - Emphasis on:
    - Personal memories
    - Emotional takeaways from senior year
    - Group participation and storytelling
  - Format: round-robin introductions followed by open discussion.
- 

## 2. Common Themes Across Participants

### A. Emotional Attachment to Cornell

- Many describe not wanting to leave.
  - Senior year marked by:
    - Nostalgia
    - Awareness that a meaningful chapter was ending
  - Cornell is consistently described as a formative, “marvelous” experience.
- 

### B. Transition & Uncertainty

- Senior year seen as a turning point:
    - Graduate school decisions
    - Career uncertainty
    - Life direction questions
  - Participants recall being:
    - Busy planning next steps
    - Anxious but also excited
-

### C. Social Life & Community

- Strong emphasis on:
    - Friendships
    - Shared experiences
    - Tight-knit campus environment
  - Memories highlight:
    - Dorm life
    - Social gatherings
    - Sense of belonging
- 

### D. Academic Pressure vs. Freedom

- Senior year had a dual nature:
    - Less structured than earlier years
    - But still included academic responsibilities and decisions
  - Some experienced:
    - Relief nearing graduation
    - Others felt pressure about post-college plans
- 

### E. Historical Context (Late 1960s–Early 1970s)

- The class years (1967–1971) overlapped with major societal events:
    - Vietnam War era
    - Political activism
  - Implied influence on:
    - Campus atmosphere
    - Student perspectives
    - Conversations and experiences
- 

## 3. Individual Reflections (Patterns)

Participants commonly describe senior year as:

- “Bittersweet”
  - “Uncertain”
  - “Exciting”
  - “Sad to leave”
  - “Transitional”
-

Recurring personal reflections:

- Desire to extend college life
  - Recognition of how special the experience was
  - Awareness (in hindsight) of its long-term impact
- 

## 4. Tone & Group Dynamics

- Informal, conversational, and nostalgic
  - Supportive and reflective atmosphere
  - Occasional humor and lightness
  - Participants build on each other's memories
- 

## 5. Key Takeaways

- Senior year = emotional peak + transition phase
- Cornell experience viewed as:
  - Deeply meaningful
  - Socially rich
  - Personally transformative
- The reunion itself reinforces:
  - Lasting connections
  - Shared identity among classmates
  - Importance of revisiting collective memory