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College is a time of rebirth for everyone. It’s a time for people to truly find who they really are and exactly who they want to be as they grow. At Longwood the Longwood Seminar helps students a lot in figuring themselves out. It helps students adapt to the swing of college life and also provides an outlet of people for them to know as they make friends. It teaches students how to be responsible for themselves and their work and other duties, it helps with thinking critically and also in how to apply that thinking to leading themselves and others down smart paths as they live and learn at school. These are an important part of every single students’ college life, and are crucial in making it or breaking it in college.

The book assigned for reading through LSEM was entitled Every Day, and I thought it was the perfect book for incoming students. The story is about an entity that controls a different body every single day, with no control of which body it will end up in. Referred to as A throughout the story, the entity was every single type of person, from a suicidal teen that had communication issues, to an illegal teenage maid from Mexico. This spoke to, as did many other aspects of the book did, as a metaphor for how diverse and different college is. A’s acceptance and nonjudgement with every single one of these bodies he inhabited was a great model for personal responsibility that students in college should have. He respected each body and made sure not to ever do anything that injured or harmed a body in anyway. This spoke volumes as a metaphor to college students on how they should treat themselves and others around them.

Personal responsibility is a huge part of being a college student, and I do not think anyone would be able to say otherwise. The responsibility that lands on a student’s lap is huge and it takes a lot of work to keep on top of it. Students learn they must become responsible for feeding themselves, spending money, staying on top of homework and classes, and also staying safe and out of trouble. This is a crucial time as many people learn that college is not a time to play around. Its money spent on the future the person wants to work for, and if they don’t want to work for it and be as responsible as they need to be, then they will not be able to make it through. This is the time people learn that responsibility lies with them, not in others.

Other things that college students need to work towards is honing their critical thinking skills, which go hand in hand with personal responsibility. Students cannot be responsible if they do not think critically about the choices they make for themselves and in some cases for others as well, which ties in citizen leadership as a way for students to lead by example. Without critical thinking, students can make bad choices without thinking about what the cost of their choice will deal them. When deciding how to critically think, students should consider what they want out of a situation, the weight of each decision on them personally, and how their decision could affect others.

In *Every Day*, A had to make hard choices when deciding whether or not he should try and learn to stay in a person’s body or not, when and how he should approach Rhiannon, and also when and how he should leave Rhiannon without hurting her too much. Without knowing it, A used critical thinking to come to the conclusions he did, and so should all college students when considering the choices, they are making, because these are the decisions that could change their lives and many other lives around them.

As I mentioned above, can be branched out of each one of the other two topics. Citizen leadership can play a big part in how students use critical thinking to make sound decisions for themselves and also, in doing so for themselves, help and lead others to decisions that will help them immensely. When dealing with personal responsibility, citizen leadership plays a part in helping others be responsible so they are able to help others be responsible too. On its own citizen leadership can help students come out of their own and start to take charge in activities, be better speakers and networkers, and even provide them with new opportunities.

Longwood Seminar has taught us a lot about each one of these points and the summer reading was such a great example for students to read as a reference for each one. All of these points are very crucial parts of every single college students life, and can sometimes be the deciding factor in either a successful college experience, or a costly one.