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First Year Reading Assignment

During the month and a half, I have been a student at Longwood, I have learned many important things. However, three of the more important things that I have come to learn more about are, personal responsibility, critical thinking, and citizen leadership. While I am still learning to be better at these things; personal responsibility being the most; I have seen that others have become second nature to me.

Coming into college, I knew that personal responsibility was going to be a more difficult thing. After suddenly being on my own after almost 19 years of living with my parents, I knew that there was going to have to be changes in my lifestyle, but that did not mean I was ready for them. I had to get used to not having my mother breathing down my neck to get my work done or study. Not having my father constantly asking what homework I had each time I walked into the door after school. At first it was something I have been dreaming about not having to deal with for my entire school career, but then it became a bit weird. I know I procrastinate, I have done it my entire life, but procrastinating in college is a whole lot different than procrastinating in high school. Learning the personal responsibility that I need for college was a bit difficult at first, however I have come to see that it is easier than I at first believed it to be. Personal responsibility comes in many forms, not just studying, and each and every day I am learning new things that fall under the responsibility umbrella.

I have always been a decent critical thinker, with all of the reading that I do, so learning that it is one of the bigger things to learn coming into college, I was not that worried. However, critical thinking in college is a whole lot more in depth than it was beforehand. Before college, I have always been able to “fake it ‘til I make it”, so to say, but now, it is very difficult to do so. The in depth thinking that has to be done in college has shown me how difficult it can be to think critically for others. We can see how in depth A has to think critically each time they wake up in a new body. They have to do this in order to not let on that they are not whose body they are in. A’s critical thinking skills seem to go down as the book progresses because they are able to start becoming themselves, and not having to constantly be aware of their surroundings. Critical thinking in college makes people more aware of their surroundings because it aids them in making informed decisions as well as informed answers.

If one thinks about it, everyone can be a citizen leader. Whether one signs up to do community service, or just helps someone on the street, they still can be considered one. A shows that they are a community leader at first by not making the person whose body they are in that day, not do crazy things, as well as helping them out as much as possible. People can be community leaders at Longwood by doing very simple things, like holding the door open. Just stepping up and trying new things that you would never try before to help out others, can show you how nice it is to do things for others. I personally love helping others, that is one of the many reasons I decided to go into nursing. Community leaders can come in all shapes and sizes, whether it is a little kid helping clean up a classroom instead of going outside to play with his or her peers, or just opening a door for someone who is injured and on crutches, people notice these things. Everyone can be a leader, even if they do not try to be.

I have learned so much about myself being in college for just over a month, not just about myself, but about others I have seen and met on campus. I have learned that I need to start holding myself personally responsible for things that happen and not try to pass it off as something that’s smaller than it really is. I have learned that critical thinking is more in depth than I previously thought. I have also learned that almost anyone can be a community leader, no matter what they do.