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LSTU 300 - Winter Intersession

Growing up did you dream and plan your whole future to hope to follow that plan and make those dreams come true? What if your dream and plan is no longer your dream and plan? My junior year, everything that I had once planned had changed for me. I am now a senior at Longwood University and up until last year I had always dreamed and planned to be a teacher. I loved being with kids, I had my classroom planned out on my Pinterest board, and could not wait to start making lesson plans of my own. I do not come from a family of teachers; I would be the first for my family. I did not have any pressure to become a teacher from anyone surrounding me, it was always just the goal. Well, one day during my junior year of college something changed in my mind and heart. I cannot remember the exact day or the exact thing that happened that changed this interest in me, I just realized the feeling. The desire and the passion was not there anymore. I was devastated that I had lost it, I felt lost not knowing what to do or where to even begin. I struggled with the idea of finishing college and keep pursuing my teaching degree the path I was already on, even though I knew that was no longer my dream. I struggled with how to tell my parents and where to even begin with switching my major. I was worried that the money spent went down the drain and I wished that this change of heart would have hit me sooner.  I made the decision after speaking to my advisor numerous times to drop the Elementary Education concentration and to pursue Liberal Studies with an English minor. I have always loved reading and writing. I had taken many English courses already during my college career so I felt that it was best to go with an English minor so I would still be able to finish on time.

At the beginning of my junior year of college I got a part-time job at a student housing company called Walk2Campus Properties. I work at the front desk as a Market Assistant. The company that started at Longwood University, has now expanded to nine different markets, serving a different style of housing to students at those different universities in that market area. This part-time job has quickly became something I have mastered and fell in love with being in the office business style setting. This job has allowed me to plan and market advertise several events for the company. I always thought that working with people my own age would be something I never had desire to do. I can now say that I love it. I enjoy coming in and responding to emails, and working on excel sheets for leasing our properties. This was something I never pictured myself doing. As I believe, everything happens for a reason right? My plan is to find a balance of both the office setting and being surrounded with children. I have not quite determined exactly where I am going to find this balance, but one thing I know is that whatever I end up deciding to pursue I want to be genuinely happy.

I plan to take on the “Inside-Out” approach from the section *A New Level of Thinking* from the text “The 7 Habits”. Starting with first myself, from within what I want and how I am going to make sure I achieve it. I want to evaluate my character and my motives to find within what I think will be the best end goal for me. This approach really interests me because it is empowering constant growth. It is described as an upward spiral of growth that leads higher forms of independence that is effective for personal responsibilities. I know there is a perfect field of profession where I will be able to use my love of kids, the office setting, and my English minor. I have thought about taking a job within the company I work for currently and working as a part-time tutor for students struggling with reading and writing. This idea of a future plan touches on everything in my character. From “The 7 Habits” character is defined as a composite of our personal habits. Habits are more than just things you do on a daily basis, they are powerful factors in our life that define you. Habits are a combination of knowledge, skill, and desire. Knowing the idea in mind for my new dream and goals I think it touches on each combination of the habits I weave in and out in my day to day lifestyle.

With all this life defining and changing it is good to have someone that you can turn to for reassurance and guidance with your choices. During my college career, I have crossed many paths with different professors that have impacted me in numerous ways. Dr. Scarrow is one professor that I know I will never forget. I have had the pleasure of having her class for the past two semesters. She has been someone that makes me question, why I ever changed my mind on teaching. She reassured me that the bump I hit on the road to finding myself and future goals, that it will all work out. She reminded me that no matter what I can always come back into the teaching light. Her guidance has been something I have really relied on to make it through my junior and now senior year. Dr. Scarrow always reminded her students that we have to be learners. We are constant learners no matter what age we are. That is something that has stuck with me. I am willing to learn and adapt each day to something new that crosses my path. I am learning who I am within and where my goals fall on my path.

I think there will always be a part of me that will desire to be a teacher, and if it’s meant to be it will be eventually. For now, though I know I want to continue the path I am on with my Liberal Studies degree and English minor. This course being my first Liberal Studies course, and only having two more English courses left to finish to conquer my Undergraduate degree. I plan on attending a Master’s program in Business Administration. Having all these different qualifications I think I will fulfill all my “wants” in a dream job. Through the biggest change in my life I have learned that it is okay to have a change in heart. It is okay to have mixed feelings about the future and your personal goals. So, thinking back on my starting questions, growing up did you dream and plan your whole future to hope to follow that plan and make those dreams come true? What if your dream and plan is no longer your dream and plan? To answer both of those, yes I did once have every little detail of my future planned out, and yes my once dream is no longer my dream. Admitting that to myself was a challenge but we can all overcome them. It will only make my character stronger with constant improvement to my daily habits of knowledge, skill, and desire.