Richard Welter

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Dr. Van Tassel

Reflective

I would have to agree on the statement, “Time flies by.” It felt like it was just yesterday when I was saying my final goodbye’s to my parents as they dropped me off at Bethany College. Reflecting on my fall term, I have to say this has been the greatest experience I have endured. I have found my calling. I am becoming a mature adult.

Here at Bethany College, the professors, administrators, and upper-classmen were right on how the community acts like a family. Because this institution is miniscule compared to colleges like the University of Kansas, it is easier to become knit closely with people. One of the things I loved the most about this place was how polite and considerate people are here. Back in Texas, everyone—well the majority—are blunt, sarcastic, and down-right rude. Bethany College is my new home.

Getting away and experience this was probably the smartest thing I decided to do. I understand that college these days are almost impossible to pay for; however, I wanted to experience it. I am the first person out of my family to make it to an actual university; so by doing so, I have already achieved plenty. But coming here was going to be a life lesson. I knew by going to Bethany College, I had to prove not only myself but my parents that I was mature enough to be away from one, rely on myself, and focus on my education. And now that this semester is over, I can say I have achieved all the above.

When I wrote my essay my senior year, the one where I had to give reasons why I was an aspirant for the Honors Program, I wrote that my academics are very important to me. I admit that I did not earn the grades I did not desire, meaning due to other commitments and laziness I was slacking. However, college is different from high school, obviously. I felt I was working a whole lot harder in high school than college because I was trying to balance everything out. But here at Bethany, there are people who will be there for you, assist you when you need it the most. That’s the reason why I love this college so much.

After taking the Freshman Honors Seminar, not only did I learn more about the human condition, but myself miraculously. I have never taken a class where we investigated the broad question, “What does it mean to be human?” At first, I thought it was a ruse; but as Dr. Van Tassel discussed the syllabus, I knew this course was not going to be a cake-walk. From this class, I proved myself that just because English is my weakest subject, hard work pays off. Through all the books I read, the annotating, the many Socratics over the books, and of course, the extended questions as well as response essays, I am golden. I can somewhat relate this success to a phobia—phobia being English. I knew at some point in time I had to overcome it, but as the saying goes, “actions speak louder than words.” I walked into this class with hubris, and proved myself English was not going to stymie my goal of making an A in this class (well hopefully after the Final paper, I will maintain that A).

Just because I was successful in the fall term does not give me an excuse to slack of the spring. I will work just as hard as I did in the fall, even harder if necessary. College altogether has taught me life lessons that I will need in the future. If I do not return in the spring, because of financial issues, I am fortunate enough to experience a semester’s worth.