Most students start their college career having no idea what they want out of their future. They know that they want an education and to obtain a degree, but that is the extent to what they expect to get out of a college or university. I am not ashamed to say that I was one of those students. I had no idea what I wanted to do and I think that part of that is to be blamed on myself. I never realized all that I was capable of and all that I have accomplished with my time at West Virginia University. After taking my Capstone course, there are now many possibilities that have been opened up to me. I now have a broad range of careers that I am interested in and am qualified for. One of the positions that has really sparked my interest is a job with a brand protection company. I never thought about this type of work, but after seeing all that I have completed with my coursework and other outside departmental work, I am confident that I would fit the position very well. I have had many opportunities at WVU, and most of them are able to be presented to an employer to let them see what I am capable of achieving. I am proud of my time as a student and would change very little about my experience.

When I first began thinking of what I wanted to do when I graduated from West Virginia University, I was completely lost. I thought about the many things that I could do, but never really had a set field I considered to further develop in to have a long term career. I think that the major problem that I had when considering my choices was my lack of knowledge as to what I could do with my degree. I had a few things in mind, but after taking this course, I realize that I was not living to my full potential. Although searching for a job that I qualified for was not something that was an easy task, it had many rewards. I was able to see jobs that I qualified for in my location of interest as well. I have always had it in mind that I would like to work with the public, and my degree in Communication Studies makes that dream something that can be easily accomplished.

 One of the jobs that I have done a lot of research with is a client service and sales representative for an internet brand protection company. This is not a job that I would have been able to even let you know existed before I began my research for the course. I was interested to see what the job entailed with its responsibilities and how well I met all of the criteria required of the job. I would like to look into the field more because it has all of the things that I am looking for in a future career and it is set in a location that I would love to work in. It is hard to find a job in such a small town, but the job I have found is set in a large city that it not too far from where I live currently. Although I think that my career goals have greatly shifted since beginning my research on potential jobs, I think that it has also reinforced what I am looking to get out of my future career.

 One of my major concerns was always the potential that I would just have to settle for a position that I was not happy with. I feel that I am going to be put in a position that I am passionate about as long as I use all that I have learned in my field of study in Communication Studies. If I am able to work with people one on one, I am not only doing something that I love, but I am also using all of the knowledge that I have gained in my college career. Some students could waste their time with an education that does not further their passions, but I am proud to say that I have a degree in something that just reinforces all that I am passionate about.

 For the particular occupation that I have chosen to further research and potentially obtain a job with, I will be working with others to satisfy customers. This is something that I have a vast background with completing successfully. The job would require working one on one with current and potential clients to ensure that the vision they have for them and/or their company is met. The position requires excellent communication skills to ensure that the job is done to the criteria asked by the client. The position also ask that the person also have knowledge with computers; more specifically focusing on Microsoft Office tools. Something else that the position stressed was the amount of documents that the person would be working with and that they were to be done in a professional manner. I think that it is important to not only understand what is being asked of by a client, but also your employer. Knowing how to transfer information into document form not only helps to bring professionalism to the client, but also shows your employer that you have the proper knowledge to complete tasks that are delegated to you. The position does not state it in black and white, but I really feel that the person who would be the most qualified for the position would be one that possesses great leadership qualities. If a person is able to assign task and goals, then it helps to increase productivity. This would encourage everyone to work towards the common goal of making the customer happy, which in turn, would generate revenue for the company. I feel this position is one that I could really accelerate at and potentially move up to a higher position quickly. I have all of the skills required and I think that not only do I fit the position well, but more so, the position fits me well.

 There are many thing that I have learned throughout my career at West Virginia University that I could use to further myself in this particular career path. This includes not only my coursework completed within my department, but also coursework and tasks done outside of my particular field. I have learned many things within the Communication Studies Department, but I have also furthered myself as a student outside the department as well. This includes other courses that I have taken, but it also streams out to other positions and volunteer work that I have accomplished. I never understood how much of my experience I could use until I started working on my resume. It was then that I discovered that there was so much I had completed that I could use to sell myself to a future employer, and more specifically, an employer of a brand protection company. Everything that they asked for was not only skills that I had just completed in my department, but it also stemmed out to things that I had done in other work related experiences.

 When thinking about what qualifies me to work in any position it is essential that I give credit to my field of study, Communication Studies. It has prepared me for so much. I know how to communicate with people, motivate others, and read signs that most people do not even realize are happening in front of them. I think that this is a major advantage that I have over others that have not had the opportunity to study in Communication. I can tell when I am with my friends, and even family, things that they won’t pick up on, but I am able to see. I can persuade people and let my view point’s be clearly laid out for them so that they see where I am coming from. I rarely find myself in an argument with anyone because I am not only able to communicate effectively, but I am also able to let my main point be seen and listen to what others have to say as well.

 One of my favorite courses that I had the opportunity to take at WVU was my course in nonverbal communication. It honestly blew my mind to see all that I could have been missing before. Most of the things that we learned were things that I had never paid any attention to prior to taking the course. I am now more aware of the people around me and how to manipulate situations to my advantage. When I say that I manipulate a situation, it is not meant in a negative way either. I am able to now read what people are feeling and change the mood of the conversation to make them more comfortable. This also works to my advantage as well. If I am with a client in my future and I see that they are uncomfortable with options that I am giving them, I can quickly read their nonverbal patterns and switch the conversation to put them at ease. I am now in control of the conversation and am able to better communicate with the potential client. I had the opportunity to take the course with Dr. Patterson, and I think that he did a magnificent job with teaching the course. The course will forever stick out to me and help me further my career more than I think he could ever know.

 I am lucky to say that I not only have experience within my field, but I also have many things that have helped to round out my education in other areas. I was very reluctant to study a different language because it was not something that I consider to be a strong suit for me. I was very pleased to find that when I put in the effort, I was able to come up with quite satisfying results. Spanish is a subject that I have dedicated many hours to studying, but it is also now a subject that I consider to be one of my favorites. It is amazing to be able to understand a different language. I work at a Mexican/American restaurant back home and although the menu is laid out to be primarily American cuisine with Mexican flair thrown in, I live in a town with many Spanish speaking individuals. I used to get frustrated when Spanish speakers would come in to the restaurant and I would be clueless on how to serve them. I am by no means fluent in the language, but I am proud to say that when there is a problem with language barriers, most servers look to me to help them communicate in Spanish with the individuals. There was recently a table of twenty Spanish speaking individuals that came in to dine with us at Stray Cat Café. It was not my table, but it was transferred to me after I was the only one able to understand what they were trying to say and help them be satisfied with their meal. I was surprised with myself and how much I understood them. I have never been so proud to have studied the language than when I was in that moment. I was able to put in the order that they wanted and even able to laugh with them about differences in our menu as compared to what they are accustomed to in their country. Many people look down on others if they are not like them, but I was able to use my knowledge in Spanish, and also Communication, to show that they are just the same as an English speaking individuals, they just have different customs they are used to. People are people, and we are all trying to reach the common goal of taking care of ourselves and those close to us. I am happy that I was able to fulfill their needs and make them a client that will come back for our service because of the service that I provided them with. I think that this could easily translate to the job that I am seeking. I am a flexible individual who can accommodate a broad range of clients. Although I think that it is something an employer can respect and appreciate, it is not the only thing that I have to offer. I also have experience in my many positions I have held with the public to satisfy the needs of a future employer.

 I have had many jobs that have all required me to work with the general public. I am proud that I have not only done my job, I have done my job extremely well. I feel that you get back what you put in, and it is something that I always strive to do. This is something that all of my employers have noticed. I am a highly motivated individual that is able to transition into many differing positions. This shows not only in my paid work experience, but also in my volunteer work. I understand that volunteering is something that is important, but I never realized how important it could be to a future employer. Many of the requirements of the job I seek are skills that I have obtained by my work with volunteering. I have worked with a broad range of individuals to complete many differing goals. I have done work with after school programs, non-profit organizations and programs laid out to help people get back on their feet. This shows that I am flexible in my skill set and that I am able to add a lot to any company that I work for in the future. I feel that I am overall a very well rounded student and I will be earning my degree with so much more knowledge than just what the paper says. I have learned so much from my time at West Virginia University, but I only fear that I have not learned enough!

 I will say it once again, not to brag, but rather to show my pride. I am very proud of what I have accomplished with my time at West Virginia University. I have achieved more than I ever thought possible of myself and that is something that I will cherish the rest of my life. No one can ever take away all that I have learned. The only thing that I regret is not doing more. Although I feel I did accomplish many things, I think that the only gaps in my education can only be blamed on myself. I could have done more within the department, but again, this is only something I can blame myself for. I was always so biased towards fraternities, but after hearing so much about the fraternity connected with the Communication Department, I am sad to say that I feel I have missed out. They participated in so many activities that were really geared towards the things that sparked my interest. If I could offer one piece of advice to incoming freshmen that are part of the Communication Studies Department, it would be to join the associated fraternity. I would let them know that they should get involved before it is too late. It can do nothing but help further your education and help to build your resume. It is truly a fraternity that helps to build your education. One of my friends told me about all that they do and I was truly surprised. I didn’t realize all that they participate in and all that I missed out doing. Other than my own mistakes, there are very few gaps that I have in my education. This is something to be proud about that I do not have many regrets, but I hope that mistakes do not happen to others and that they pursue all that is offered to them at WVU. Overall I have many experiences to take away from my time at West Virginia University, most of which I could easily apply to my future career path with a branding company.

 Most of the courses I have taken at West Virginia University have been completely my choice. I had the opportunity to complete courses that would help with my future, but they were also things that I had the opportunity to chose. One of the courses that I completed last semester was one that was required from the Communication department. It was not the only option that would fulfill the degree requirement, but it was the only one offered that would work with my other courses scheduling. I attending the course the first day and I was immediately in distress. I did not want to take the class and really thought about dropping the course. I wanted to wait until the next semester to take a different course, but we were placed into groups the first day of class. I didn’t want to let down my group by quitting on the first day, so I stuck it out. This course turned out to be one of the best decisions that I have ever made. I was able to make real life decisions and work with real clients to achieve their vision. This opportunity really helped me. I am able to apply many of the things that I worked on to future jobs that I would be able to use as experience with future job positions.

 One of the clients that I worked with had many different things that they were looking for. They needed us to be professional with everything as well as produce something that would be used for an extended period of time. The client was looking to make an office presentation as well as an updated webpage for their department. There were many things that the client was looking for, but we were also presented with many restrictions as well. We needed the presentation to be three hours in length, something that promoted the departments field (Communication Studies) and also something that a person would be able to view at any point of the presentation without having to view the entire video. This was something that seemed impossible, which made it enjoyable to make. I love having a challenge and I took on a head role with both of the projects. The webpage was a completely different concept. They were looking for something that would fit the requirements of West Virginia University webpage’s, but also something that would stand out to future students. They wanted to appeal to new students coming in to the university, and have more students apply directly to the Communication Studies field. This seemed like a hard task to complete, but I was up to the challenge.

 One of the requirements for the position that I am seeking is to work with clients one on one. Also, the person applying for the position needed an understanding of Microsoft office tools. I think that this experience has really opened many opportunities for me. I am able to say that I have satisfied clients using all of these tools. When the time came for the client to choose a winner on the task, we were chosen. I listened to what the client wanted and produced an end product that they were satisfied with. The video is still in use within the department today, and I am proud every time I get to see it go across the screen. This is just one example that I have from not just the course, but from my entire career at West Virginia University. I can use all that I have learned to apply myself even more when I begin the search for my career.

 I am so glad that I had the opportunity to take my Capstone course. It has showed me all that I have accomplished and opened my eyes to all of the possibilities that I have for my future. I enjoyed all the courses I was able to take and all the memories I have created along the way. My experience is something that I now see can be easily applied to my furthering myself in the work force. I am proud that I have an advantage over other students because of my vast knowledge in many different areas of study. I will now take all that I have learned, be the best me, and most importantly, always be proud to be a Mountaineer!