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COMM 403

Final Synthesis Paper

M:W 1:30-2:20

Being a student at West Virginia University has taught me that I can have the option to be anything I want to after college. Having switched my major a handful of times, I've finally found my niche. If all goes accordingly I will be graduating this December in 2012. The plan is to graduate and then immediately go out to Colorado to become a ski/snowboard instructor. Once I finish out the long and exciting ski season in April I will come home to NY and pick up where I left off as a summer lifeguard on Rockaway Beach NY. I've been doing this since 2007 and I can't call it work because I love it so much. Then if my grades and Kingborough Community College permits my acceptance I will be attending nursing school in the fall of 2013.

Coming into College as a freshman I thought I was sure I wanted to be a Special education teacher. I worked for Special Olympics the previous 4 years and I assumed that this was it for me. As I got further into the major my mind was changed. It wasn't a specific experience that changed it but I think it was more my father and sister. They are both in the medical field and it interested me as I got older. I have always been attracted to helping people and after lifeguarding for so many years I had my fair share of accidents where my assistance was needed. There is something about aiding people who can't aid themselves that gives me a rush. The nursing program at West Virginia University is extremely competitive and my grades at the time didn't meet the

requirements. Yes, I was sad but I did not let it ruin my stride. I switched into Communication Studies and have been quite comfortable here ever since. I may not use my degree in the relative future but who knows. Maybe somewhere down the line I'll have another change of heart.

I've been mildly obsessed with skiing since before I can remember. There is something about being alone on the mountain, letting the brisk air into my lungs and the sense of freedom that is truly liberating. I make an effort to go skiing at least twice a ski season. There is also a family type of feeling I get while skiing. My family and a few others would go every season and stay at a resort and ski together for a week when I was a kid. Both my brothers went out to Colorado and did what I plan on doing after graduating college. I have spoke to both of them numerous amounts of times and they swear by it. I've visited before and to say I feel in love with Colorado and the atmosphere is putting it lightly. I think my visit to Colorado was what reinforced my career goal the most. I knew the second I left I wanted to come back and for a longer period then a few days. I know that once I begin nursing school I most likely will not have the chance to do this again. So it's now or never.

In terms of becoming a nurse I had a few defining experiences that reinforced this job as being the career for me. While having dinner with my girlfriends at Eatn' Park a young girl, I think 9 years old, started seizing. The employees of the restaurant didn't know what to do so just ignored what was happening. I know unreal right? Unfortunately she wasn't there with her parents, who later told me she has been having seizures for over a year now and were in the process of getting her proper medical attention. Well my professional instinct took over and I ran over. I knew that people seizing should be laid

onto their sides in case of nausea. I did this and yelled for a waitress to call 911. Even though I didn't do much, it was defiantly a bridging moment in my decision towards nursing.

To be a ski instructor you have to be passionate about the sport. I defiantly have the passion; I actually always have dreams about skiing after I get back onto the mountain for the first time each season. Ski instructing is an experience for everyone involved. I have to be prepared to teach any type of student. I could get a family, a group of 6 year olds or a group of moms and everything in between. This seems more then find to me because I consider myself an adaptive and quite personable person. Using my experience from Special Olympics I can break down instructions and directions very easily. Working there has also taught me a great deal of patience, which is also a plus for working with a potentially difficult student. The job also requires me to be able to discuss the lesson content and evaluate the progress of the lesson. My degree in communication will make this rather easy for me.

To be a nurse I have to take medical history/inventory of the patients. My experiences from lifeguarding where I would have to obtain information about the rescued victims helps for this aspect of the job. I will have to conduct physical exams. Though I've never done this I can confidently say that this will not be an issue for me, I am perfectly accepting of the human anatomy. After my schooling is finished and I have learned the proper terminology I will be able to make diagnoses and assist doctors in figuring out the issues of the patients. Depending where I choose to work I could potentially be able to write prescription narcotics as well. I will first have become a Nurse

Practioner, which means more schooling but also more career advancement opportunities. But ill just cross that bridge when I come to it.

Registered Nurses must have a Bachelors degree in the respective fields. Attending Kingsborough Community College will assist me in receiving that said degree. After completing the 2-year program I must pass an exam to become nationally certified. I have spoke to 2 girl friends that have both taken and passed this exam. While they both said it was time consuming and put their stress levels on an emotional rollercoaster, in the end all the negatives were so minimal to the positive. They now both have jobs in the NY working at a hospital. A Majority of RN's (registered nurses) go to hospitals to work but not all. Once you've passed the NCLEX (National Council Licensure Examination) you can work at a number of different places, Hospitals, Clinics, Community Centers, Public Health Departments, and Universities to name some.

Even though my communication degree isn't necessarily being used in what I will need for nursing and skiing it doesn't mean that it is not useful. I have learned many things in communication that will be of great assistance in my careers. I also have 4 semesters of Spanish under my belt. This is HUGE! If you are a nurse who can speak Spanish you are highly sought after and it defiantly can be the deciding factor of me getting a job as opposed to someone who does not speak the language. The extra \$10,000 a year isn't too shabby either. This also comes in handy for ski instructing as well. There are some classes I could have put more effort into because they probably could have helped me get into the nursing program to begin with but I've already put myself down enough for being an immature freshman. If I could do one differently it would have to be not studying abroad. I love to travel and being able to get credits while living in a

different country is an opportunity I sure did pass up. I had the privilege to visit my roommate while she was in Paris and it was a trip of a lifetime.

My communication 405, mediated communication class has me writing a 12-page paper about how to sell something through the use of social media. In the wake of Hurricane Sandy I have changed my topic to be the diffusion of information through social media. It was truly mind blowing to see how facebook and twitter got news and information out before CNN did. I'm currently in the process of running a fundraiser for the victims of Sandy. I'll be making a facebook event for this. A part of my paper is focusing on the fact that while power lines were down in NY facebook was able to tell firemen where the fires in my neighborhood were. Also smaller donation websites have been made by people that made it with the click of a button as opposed to donating through Red Cross. Its truly amazing that in a little over a week there has been over \$150,000 donated to just one website. This is relative to my life both physically because my house was destroyed by Sandy and also because it makes me want to be a nurse even more. While I may not be doing exactly what the Red Cross and other foundations are doing I will be helping people and that is just fine with me.