

Autumn Noteboom

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English 12, Mr. Pfarrer

College Research Paper

Many things come to mind when I look back on the last three years of my high school career: hard classes, mean teachers, favorite teachers, friends, cliques, tons of laughs, and of course, homework. Many things also come to mind when I think about what college will be like: even harder classes, meaner teachers, new friends, new cliques, and a lot more work in general. When I was younger, I decided that I was definitely going to go to college after high school. I have always wanted to go to a big university and have a very successful job, but as I've become older, and as the time to go to college has come closer, I've realized that while getting a successful job is possible, going to a large university is definitely not possible.

Last year was my first year attending the Cosmetology program at TST Boces. The decision to go to this school was a pretty hard one for me because I wasn't absolutely sure that that was what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. I did know for sure that it was something I would love to do, and I do love it, but I'm still not positive that it's the only thing I want to do forever. This is the main reason I want to attend college next year, so that I can have the extra education to be able to do something else if I want to. But my dilemma is that I don't know what else I would like to do, so I don't know what to major in, or to focus my studies on, in college. I'm leaning towards something to do with business, management, or office and secretarial work. With

something like that, I could either become a secretary, something similar, or use that along with my Cosmetology talents, and possibly own or manage a salon.

Because it was required of me, I have taken all of the classes that were needed to graduate from high school with a regents diploma, but in order to get the advanced regents diploma, I am currently taking Trigonometry. Even through the first week of school, the class has been the hardest one I've taken. I really don't need the advanced regents. I could definitely be successful in life without it, but I thought that giving Trig a try would be the best thing for me. I'm still not positive that it is. With the regular regents diploma I could easily go to a community college, which is what I'm interested in doing. If I actually passed the Trigonometry class and regents test so that I could get the advanced regents, I would probably still end up going to a community college. So for me, the advanced regents really isn't needed.

I feel that a community college would be the best kind of college for me mainly because of the cost. Also because I'm so unsure of what I want to study. I also want to have only two years of college education, and community college is what my parents want me to do.

The main community college that I am thinking of is Tompkins Cortland Community College (TC3). That seems to be the popular choice for people around here. I'm leaning towards this college primarily because I'm not very aware of any other colleges in the area, and I don't want to go too far away from home. TC3 is a small community college in Dryden, NY. According to [wikipedia.com](http://wikipedia.com), the college has approximately 3,800 students and "The student body typically includes students from all

parts of New York, a dozen other states, and more than 50 foreign countries.” TC3 was founded in 1967 and opened in 1968 in Groton, NY, but moved to Dryden, NY, in 1974. Tuition for this school would cost my family about 4,040 dollars per year, and the books would be about 1,000 dollars per year. As also stated on Wikipedia’s website, TC3 has many programs to offer:

Tompkins Cortland Community College offers more than 50 degree and certificate programs, including biotechnology, business administration, communication and media arts, computer sciences, construction technology, creative writing, criminal justice, engineering science, hotel and restaurant management, liberal arts and sciences, nursing, paralegal, photography, sport management, and wine marketing.

If I go to TC3, I would most likely take business administration classes because like I said before, those are the only classes that somewhat apply to the field that I have been studying for the past year. The academic programs page of the TC3 website states the following:

Graduates of our business programs qualify for positions in production planning, management, communication and support systems coordination, general contracting, retail sales, auditing, microcomputer administration, quality control, retirement and compensation analysis, and customer relations.

My parents are pushing me to go to this college because my mother went there after high school. My mom also drove there every day, and my parents are expecting me

to drive there also. This is another one of my dilemmas. I would really like to stay on the campus in a dorm or have a very small apartment of my own so that I wouldn't have to drive back and forth every day, and of course, because I want the freedom of being away from home. According to "Mapquest.com" TC3 is about twenty seven miles away from my house in Newfield, NY. This trip would be about forty minutes long and would cost me about ten dollars per trip with the current gas prices. I would be spending about twenty dollars per day to drive to and from the school. I don't think my mother really understand that the price of gas has gone up about three dollars per gallon since she went, and staying in a dorm or getting a very small apartment may actually be cheaper than driving. Room and board at TC3 is about 4,000 dollars, and after all of my calculations, I figure that I would spend approximately 3,600 dollars on gas driving to and from TC3 every year.

Another college that I am thinking of is Corning Community College. I recently started talking to my parents about this college, so I don't really know very much about it. The college is in Corning, NY, and was founded in 1956 by the Corning Painted Post School District. The Corning Community College website makes the college seem like it has a much bigger campus than TC3, where the classrooms are all in one place like a high school:

Today, we encompass a 550-acre main campus on Spencer Hill with a complex of eight buildings plus an observatory and planetarium. We've also expanded our vision to provide services at a variety of off-campus sites throughout Steuben, Chemung and Schuyler counties. We are truly

a community college, and proud of it. (<http://www.corning-cc.edu/future/acidify/acaprograms/>)

Corning also has many programs to offer, but the one that I am interested in is one that would allow me to immediately enter into a profession. It is called an Associate of Occupational Studies degree. The tuition at Corning is about 3,900 dollars and all of my books would be about 900 dollars. This college would be a little cheaper than TC3, but it is also a little further away, so I would have to spend more money on gas in the long run.

If I were to go to Corning, I would still have the dilemma of driving or getting a dorm. According to "Mapquest.com" Corning Community College is about thirty nine miles away from my house. That would be about fifty two minutes one way, and I would spend about twenty two dollars on gas per day. That would be about 3,960 dollars spent on gas per year. In my research, I could not find any information about dorms at Corning, or how much they cost. I did, however, find information about a couple of off-campus housing facilities. Most of the facilities offer free wireless internet, refrigerators, microwaves, and parking. The rent is about three hundred dollars per month, or sixty dollars per week.

Throughout my thinking and researching about college, I have learned about the colleges that I am interested, but I have actually learned more about myself also. I have learned that my family and their opinions matter a lot to me. I have also learned that I like to push myself by taking more challenging classes so that I can achieve the best out of my education, but when it comes to going to a more advanced, expensive college, I

can realize that the expenses are one of the most important things that my family has to deal with. I will definitely consider the ideas and concerns of my parents as the time to decide on college comes closer, and as the time to pay for college comes closer.

I am looking forward to my future, even though I do not know exactly what it holds in store for me, but I will continue to think about these things every day until I figure it out for sure. I know that college will be very challenging for me no matter where I go, but the decision is still very hard for me to make. So I will also continue to think about where I would like to spend the next few years of my life, and apply for the ones that I am interested in.

### **Works Cited**

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