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My Value Proposition

My name is Amina Begum and I am currently in my third year attending the New York City College of Technology. My major was originally Law and Paralegal studies for my Bachelors Degree in Science. However, I recently decided to change my major to a CUNY BA, where individuals design their own Bachelors Degree. Although this degree comes with some negative elements, there are positive ones are what make it worth it. I have put a lot of thought in making my decision and I am happy with it.

The idea to change my major in my third year in college didn't sound like the best idea when I told people, but I didn't care because I finally felt satisfied with knowing what I'm about to study. I was always in between the Psychology field and the law field but City Tech didn't have Psychology as a major so I relied on that fact to major in Law and Paralegal studies. Although the courses were very interesting, for some reason I didn't feel fulfilled when I saw the rest of the required courses I had to take, I lost motivation and I was slowly beginning to loose interest. I was unhappy because I still wanted to learn more about psychology but there was only one psychology course that was required for my major. Finally, when I spoke to my advisor she told me about the CUNY BA, where I get to design my major and take the courses I want to take. I realized I can combine the two fields and realized what I wanted to study, which was Forensic Psychology.

The negative elements of getting a CUNY BA is the fact that I have to keep City Tech as my home school and just take courses from other colleges. This can discourage a

lot of students for many reasons. Traveling can definitely be frustrating from one college to another. Also, people may not take a CUNY BA as seriously as a regular degree because the student designs it. However, I don't mind those factors because I find this major to be beneficial for me.

I am content with my decision to get a CUNY BA. One of the reasons it is beneficial to me is because I didn't want to transfer to another college in fear that all my credits wouldn't go through. I didn't want to have the courses I already took go to waste. With a CUNY BA, I can keep all my credits and use some of them as electives. Also, I don't mind traveling from different colleges because I enjoy having different environments around me.

Changing my major was a big step for me, especially because I am in my third year of college but I know I am ready for this step. Although I have gotten negative and positive feedback from others about this, I came to a realization that I'd rather take this challenge now because even if I fail at it, at least I know I only did it because it was what I wanted to do, not the easy way out or what I thought would save me more time.