

To: Professor Ellis
From: Samantha Pezzolanti
Date: February 8th, 2016
Subject: Project 1 Memo 2

List of Events,

1. June 2008 I get accepted to John Jay College of Criminal Justice in hopes of joining the program to graduate as an NYPD detective. As far back as I can remember i loved watching law and order I wanted to be the next olivia benson. Aspiring to be a cop made me feel like a badass and i could picture myself with the gun and badge locking up bad guys.
2. September 2008 I find out that I'm pregnant with my daughter, I was 18 years old. That day I swore time stopped moving, I can still feel my stomach drop out from under me and the white lights of the doctors office nearly blind me. I was in shock I never thought it would happen to me ever. I was at a loss and I couldn't really feel anything all i heard was my mom asking me if i understood i was giving up my youth. It felt like i failure my parents, on their anniversary no less. I wasn't sure what to do i felt torn i couldn't run from this i would never forgive myself but was i ready to say goodbye to my youth?
3. December 2008 I'm finishing my first semester in college when i'm put on bed rest after having pregnancy complications. The day i was rushed to the hospital is a big blur, the commotion around me, the whispers of the nurses and finally the doctor saying if i had this baby now she may not make it. I was in the hospital for christmas and it was the loneliest i'd ever felt. I didn't feel any christmas cheer not even from the nurses who tried their best to be happy and warm towards me. I felt like i'd cast myself a line i wasn't able to reel in anymore and i just wanted to have Ava and stop being pregnant.
4. January 2009 I have to withdraw from my second semester at college for medical reasons I wasn't able to travel to and from school. After the christmas ordeal they told me i couldn't go back to school until after id had ava. This felt like the beginning of the end for me I was forced to give up on my dream momentarily they said, but i knew, i felt in my gut that it would be forever.
5. March 2009, My daughter is born and I make the decision I will enroll back in college and make her proud. By far the most emotional day of my life, welcoming my daughter into the world. Warmth, excitement, shock and awe consumed me as they placed this squirmy, slimy screaming little ball of life in my arms. Id never felt such a connection to other human being before it was as if our spirits interlocked from the moment her little brown eyes stared up at me. From then i knew i would do great things to make her proud.

6. August 2009 I begin college again, my second semester. Determined to be a do it all mom, to beat the odds and get my degree!
7. October 2009, I'm overwhelmed and falling behind juggling a full college schedule and a newborn baby. I'd never been so tired in all my life. Being someone who's always on top of things always a stickler for order I was just a huge mess. I couldn't manage all nighters because I'd fall asleep standing up, I couldn't retain what I was reading for class because I was so exhausted it was just essential life functions. After I fell asleep feeding Ava I realized I wasn't able to do this right now and a feeling of sadness gripped me as tears rose in my throat. I hated quitting and I hated even more that my doubters were going to be right how could I earn a degree and take care of a baby.
8. November 2009, I withdraw from John Jay and get my transcripts. I still have pictures in my phone from the last day I was there, the sunset on the west side highway. I had no faith that I'd return and no idea where I'd go moving forward.
9. Spring 2011, after working seasonal and dead end retail jobs I decide I will try and get back into school, again enrolling at John Jay this time with a psychology major. After Ava turned two I found a letter or a blog post of some kind that I'd written to myself about where I wanted to be when Ava was 2. I had this big goal of having the degree and moving out. So that gave me this sense of pride and determination to go back. I told myself now that she was older it would get easier. WRONG!
10. December 2011, after completing two semesters at John Jay I realize how unhappy I am and how little I'm enjoying or flourishing in this major and I leave John Jay for a final time. It was hard to quit for a second time, the air smelt salty as I finally admitted to myself maybe everyone was right just find a job and make ends meet. I didn't have any plans to go back to school I was defeated and fed up and I just wanted a paycheck. My mom told me to take the income tax course, it was a solid career and I had the opportunity to make commission so I went for it.
11. January 2012 I pass the income tax course and begin working for H&R Block. This was the first time since I'd had Ava that I felt like I'd won, like I had some sort of potential to do something. I felt a weight off my shoulders like maybe I wasn't a total failure and disappointment and I could master something, TAXES!
12. May 2013 I'm promoted to manager and I realize I have potential in the business world and look at the business program at Kingsborough Community College. When I got the news or the grapevine gossip that the district manager wanted to promote me and ask me to run an office my head spun with pride. I'd just been doing my job and making sure I had money in my pocket but she saw something in me. I was so proud of myself and those dark clouds of doubt mediocrity started to disappear. I contemplated long and hard all summer long and finally decided I'd try and get my associate's degree. Not

as big as a BA but still something. So i enrolled and for the first time was actually excited to see what i could do.

13. September 2013 I enroll in and begin my first semester at Kingsborough. Determined to finish what i started and earn a college degree. Now I was 23 and i was slightly more mature and stable, I started making friends, people appreciated my opinions and ideas and the professors didn't look at me like some teenaged mess. I felt at home.
14. December 2013, I finish my first semester at Kingsborough with a 4.0, more determined than ever to succeed. For the first time in my life I felt powerful, accomplished and i believed in my abilities and i was sure i could do this. The rest of my time at Kingsborough was just as enriching, I met professors and peers who invested in my success and made life long friends.
15. January 2015 I file for graduation still carrying a near perfect GPA. Excited that my goal was on the horizon close enough for me to touch.
16. June 2015 I graduate from Kingsborough with a degree in Business Administration and a 3.7 GPA. The single proudest personal moment of my life, I did it! I proved all those people wrong those ney sayers the hate i had for myself vanished. I finally achieved what I set out to do and i knew then if i could come back from rock bottom i would weather any storm.
17. July 2015, I apply for and am accepted to NYCCT for their writing program.
18. August 2015 I begin my first semester in earning my bachelor's degree excited to earn another degree
19. December 2015 I complete my first semester at nycct with a 3.8 GPA.
20. January 2016 I get an invitation to the honors scholars program and the Buzz blog for the university.