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English 1101- Unit 1 Assignment

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Education vs. Work

Would you rather work a minimum wage job for the rest of your life? That's what I thought I wanted to do. You see I was enrolled one time for college during the fall '20 semester and I absolutely despised being on the computer for ALL my classes. During the first two months I was ok, I attended my classes and was on track but one day I decided to just stop. I stopped trying, didn't really pay attention to any of my classes, missed a few assignments, I even got an email from my Women Studies professor and I was told there's no way of me being able to pass the course. I didn't even care at that point so I decided to just drop out of all classes. I didn't know what to do with my life now but I decided to just work in the meantime. I applied to work for UberEats for the remaining of the year, November and December, and I got accepted. I would wake up, layer my clothing, grab my backpack and I was out that door. You can imagine how cold it was during those two months and I was working on foot which made this experience a little worse. Now looking back at it, it wasn't even worth it going through all that for just \$250-\$300 a week.

I know I didn't want to continue working for Uber so I was on a hunt for another job until one popped up during February 2021. It was just 40 minutes away from me by bus. I went in for an interview to work as a cashier at a Kosher restaurant in Riverdale and I got hired! Finally no more working outside in the cold cold weather. First few weeks were a little hard since this was my first actual job working in the food industry and a lot of things had to be done on my part in

order to close down the register correctly. School was still not on my mind during this time. I was pretty happy getting paid every Wednesday instead of being in school but I had a coworker named Yessenia who was also in the same situation about school but she told me she was planning to go back in Fall '21. In my head I wanted to do the same thing but I had to pay a balance that was leftover from when I dropped out of my previous classes. I didn't want to ask my parents to help me pay the balance because I didn't tell them I dropped out. They assumed I finished the semester of that year and I just didn't continue. I didn't want to continue thinking about school and I just kept telling myself "Just keep working, save up your money. You don't really need school." There were days at my job where I would get extremely upset because of rude customers or I would mess up on something.

Around the summer of '21 my mom had told me we were moving to Brooklyn because of personal issues and I was fine with that. I had been living in the Bronx for my first 18 years. It was time for a fresh start. So for the last week of July I took that same week off from work to move into the new place with my mom. I still traveled from Brooklyn to the Bronx for my cashier job because I really loved all my coworkers and I was used to it. I didn't want to go through a whole new process of finding a new job but I knew eventually I would have to because my mom didn't like the fact I would get home at 11-11:30 pm every night after work. Every time she kept on telling me to look for another job I would ignore her. Until one night I realized I can't be traveling this far for work all the time, it's exhausting. I decided to look for another job. I applied almost everywhere on Indeed until a retail store finally wanted to do an interview with me.

It's already the third week of November 2021, I did the interview and got accepted! Now to put in my two weeks and start working in Hudson Yards. I started working my new job during

the first week of December 2021. Now this is my first retail job and I had to actually approach the customers and get them to buy our items. It was something out of my comfort zone but I was told by my store manager that I was doing great! This was definitely one of the busiest months because of the holidays but I wasn't alone because my coworker Nicole was there to help me out. I got called into the backroom one day and my boss told me "I want to promote you to a Part-time Team Leader" I was shocked because this was only one month into me working at my job. I didn't know what to think because now I had the idea of going back to school during Spring '22 semester since I checked my CunyFirst account a few days ago and I had no remaining balance, it was cleared thanks to Biden. I told my boss to give me some time to let me think about it. Later on that day I tried to apply for classes, filled out all my required documents but it was too late for me to attend the Spring '22 semester. I mentioned to my boss what would be my plan with school and how I wanted to get promoted but suddenly her mind changed. I was so confused and I worked my butt off proving to her I would be a perfect candidate but she would make up any excuse to tell me "I don't think you're ready yet... You need to learn how to do this, this, and that." She never really bothered teaching me the things I was "missing".

I really had it with working and being underpaid because I knew what I was capable of. I made sure I applied for the Fall '22 semester and had everything else I needed completed as well. After being accepted to 5 out of the 6 CUNYs I applied for I decided to attend City Tech. Not only is it affordable but it's also close to my house and it has the major I want to study which is optics. I've always found it fascinating going to my annual eye appointment and seeing the equipment they used. They also know how to make you feel comfortable and that's something I know I want to do. I want to help out those who are just like me with glasses and who have a hard time being able to see from near or far. On top of that I know I wanted to study this major

because during my last semester as a senior in highschool I took an internship for optics before the pandemic came and I loved every minute of it. It is something I am very passionate about, I already have an idea of what to expect and I know it won't be easy but it would be much worth it rather than going from job to job and not being able to be paid what you know you're capable of.