

Rylie Lyon

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June Nelson 2nd Year Scholarship Essay Prompt

College has taught me many things about myself, and the people around me. I am grateful for every lesson I have learned, but am also anticipating with enthusiasm every new experience that is being thrown my way. Although my first year has taught me many “don’ts” it has also taught me many “do’s.” The most important “do” college has taught me is to step out of my comfort zone.

Graduating seniors headed to college or trade school should all understand that these years could be the most memorable, enthralling, and challenging years of your life to date. However, just like anything else in life, college is what you make it. That is why I am telling you to be ready to step out of your comfort zone. I chose to give graduating seniors this advice because I find this is what I lacked most, when I first came to school here in Washington. I knew no one, and stayed in my room as much as possible. I wanted desperately to make new friends and put myself out there, but I was afraid to be judged. My first week here I was miserable, calling home every night almost in tears. Then, I realized I wasn’t going to last unless I made an effort to put myself out there and make some friends. As soon as I started to get out of my room, life here got so much better. The best thing about college is that everyone is in the same boat as you, far from home and all on their own. So there really is nothing to fear when trying to make new friends, because everyone else is trying too. Trust me, you can’t get through college alone.

The biggest obstacle I have had to face in the transition from high school to college is adjusting to how my professors hold me accountable. When I first began my classes here, I had to become much more organized and prioritized. Professors don't remind you when projects and homework assignments are due, they just expect you pay attention and listen. The reason I found it important to prioritize is because you are constantly having a huge homework load. Whether it's an assignment, chapter to read, or a documentary to watch, don't procrastinate or it will lead to a lot of late nights in the library.

Overall the experience has been more than worth it. As I said before, this year has been my most memorable year of life to date. I know that I am beyond blessed to have this opportunity since I understand that not everyone does. So, if you do get so lucky to have this opportunity, don't turn it down it's a once in a lifetime experience.