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Layperson Summary: “Shaping my Future”

My main purpose through this process is to deduce how my collegiate experiences have not only changed me tremendously as a person, but have also allowed me to discover my passions and, in turn, plan my future. I yearn to understand when and why I decided to pursue a career in law, which is fascinating because being a lawyer wasn’t even on my radar when I entered college. I’ve always wanted to pursue a career that would allow me to help others, but I never knew that law was a possible career path for me to do this. Doing this project will be enormously helpful to me because it will help me understand what to do and what to avoid in the future as I seek not only to begin a successful career, but also continue as a lifelong learner and philanthropist.

The core of my research is a collection of artifacts. These artifacts are very diverse and each reflect a different stage in my collegiate journey. They show the steps in which I’ve discovered my true callings in life. Having been raised in a small town in the mountains of NC, I didn’t have the same background as most students. I think this increased my potential for growth and personal discovery in college, which I’ve attained through the extent to which I’ve thrown myself into the collegiate experience.

Although I’ve already collected artifacts, there’s still a lot of research I want to do to better understand why they’re important. I have multiple artifacts that evolved from my membership in UHP, because the program has had such a momentous impact on me and has been such a large part of my life. Through this project, I will be able understand how and why
this program has instilled in me a newfound sense of self-confidence. Without this, I wouldn’t have made any progress in discovering my passions.

I also have artifacts that revolve around my non-honors coursework (in the fields of Economics, Political Science, and Sociology), and also tidbits of the many extracurricular involvements I’ve had over the years. In the end, I think this process will prove that everything I’ve done in college has had a significant impact on me. During this process of growth, I was never consciously aware how these things were impacting me, nor how they were changing me into a better person. In the end, I know definitively what my passions are and what I want to do with my life.

This whole project is going to be about reflection, as I believe reflection is the most important thing we can do to better understand ourselves and the world around us. I’ll be utilizing the Kolb Learning Cycle to illustrate my journey. I think this process will reveal a lot about topics such as human nature, personal growth, etc. However, this is not the main reason I’m doing this project. I’m doing it because it will help me tremendously in the future, both personally and professionally.