

A Narrative Essay: My Decision When Choosing a Major

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Abstract:

This narrative essay encapsulates the journey of Watavien Favors, a senior at Old Dominion University, as he navigates his nuanced process of choosing a major. From a childhood dream of becoming a basketball player to the uncertainties that lingered into his high school years, Watavien grapples with the daunting question of his future. The narrative unfolds the pivotal moment in his junior year, where a thoughtful pause prompted a reevaluation of choices, particularly his initial inclination towards accounting. The essay delves into the internal conflict, showcasing Watavien's brief foray into accounting during his senior year and the realization that it might lead to monotony. The decision-making process gains depth as a crucial conversation with his mother becomes a catalyst for reconsideration, leading to a retrospective pause in college applications. In this reflective interval, Watavien unearths a long-standing fascination with computers and technology. A delve into his experiences, including a computer class in England and dabbling in coding, propels him into the realm of cybersecurity. The narrative articulates how research into the field, coupled with an understanding of its burgeoning demand and financial prospects, crystallizes his decision. The narrative concludes with Watavien's reflection on the journey, asserting that the pursuit of a major in cybersecurity aligns with his interests, promises fulfillment, and offers financial stability. As he stands on the brink of graduation, the essay portrays a narrative of self-discovery, resilience, and the intricate interplay of personal interests and practical considerations that steered Watavien towards his chosen path.

A Narrative Essay: My Decision When Choosing a Major

Lots of people know what they want to do with their life at a young age. At least they think they do. It's very rare that someone has had the same thought in mind since they were in middle school. Some people even get all the way to college starting with one major and ending with another. My name is Watavien Favors, currently a senior at Old Dominion University, majoring in cybersecurity, but it wasn't always like that.

Uncertainty

To begin growing up all I wanted to do was play basketball. If anyone ask me what I wanted to be the answer would be basketball player. Once I got older and new that wasn't going to happen the answer turned to, "I don't know." I had no idea what I wanted to do all the way until my junior year of high school when I needed to start giving it a thought. I tried to think of all the things I liked to do and what jobs do those things. I even took the quizzes that asks you different questions and suggest a career for you. I'm not entirely sure what careers popped up, but it was nothing that seemed pleasant to the ear. To me at least, mainly because I didn't know what any of them were. One thing that I kept in the back of my head when choosing was that I liked math, at the time.

My fall semester of my senior year I believe, I took accounting as a class just to see if it was something I liked. It ended up being understandable but the only thing about it is, for me it would start to get very boring which would not be good for me if I had to do it for years. Now that one question that everyone was asking me, "what are you going to study/what do you want your career to be?" the answer turned to accounting. Did I chose that only because it was the first, and only thing, I did any research on? Yes, possibly. I felt as if the decision was a very big one and it would start two stress me out if there were many options sitting in front of me. For

months I thought I was going to go to school and study accounting. Then I sat down with my mom.

The Decision

It was around the time I was applying for colleges and my mom was just asking my questions about if I really wanted to do accounting because previously, we had talked about how it may become boring for me as time goes by. Not sure what else was said during the conversation but I but a hold on submitting my applications and gave my decision more time. I thought for a couple days and remembered I've always like computers and technology in general growing up. Not one specific aspect of it but all of it has been interesting to me. During the time I lived in England I took a computer class to learn about the inside of a computer and even got into simple coding.

I looked up different majors and jobs that involved computer or sometime of technology. I ended up seeing that a cybersecurity major was needed for a lot of these jobs and continued to do research on the area. I say how much it was growing as far as the need for employees. Another thing I saw that I always took into consideration was the amount of money I could possibly make working in the cybersecurity career field. Coincidentally this was around the time I was making a lot of money, compared to months prior, and started to love the idea of making and having lots of money to be able to use as I please. I took many things into consideration, but I finally ended up choosing cybersecurity for my major on my college applications.

First Year

Going into my freshman year of college I felt confident, although I wasn't deep into any cybersecurity focused courses yet. But it was a weird time in my life and in the world, and all my classes were online because of the covid pandemic. I struggled to adjust and there was a time

where I regretted my decision but also realized that switching from accounting was a good decision. In my math class I finished with a D grade. Imagine if I took accounting which required way more math than the one class I was taking. I was also taking this programming class which I struggled with my freshman year, I was so close to giving up. I had a mental breakdown while home alone doing homework when my sister came home and heard me in my room going through it. I've always had a huge support system throughout my whole life, and I am not one to give up after I started something. With this mindset I wanted to get through it and decided not to change my major because for one, it was only my first semester and two, I didn't want to go through that whole process of trying to figure something else out. My best friend who was my roommate was also studying cybersecurity and we had plenty of conversations talking about it and our future, that was another thing that kept me committed to the cybersecurity major.

Conclusion

In retrospect, my journey towards a major in cybersecurity stands as a testament to the fluidity of life's choices and the evolution of personal aspirations. The narrative of uncertainty marked my early years, transitioning from the fervent desire to play basketball to a perplexed state of not knowing my future path. The pivotal moment arrived in my junior year of high school when the pressure to contemplate my career loomed large.

During this phase, I explored various interests and even took career quizzes, but none resonated with me. The lingering appreciation for mathematics led me to contemplate accounting, a decision potentially influenced by being the first and only option I researched extensively. It was a defining moment when a conversation with my mother prompted a pause in my college applications.

In this reflective pause, I recollected my childhood fascination with computers and technology. Further exploration revealed the burgeoning demand for cybersecurity professionals, aligning with the growing importance of technology. The allure of a dynamic field and the prospect of substantial financial rewards crystallized my decision.

Entering my freshman year of college with a major in cybersecurity, I encountered the unforeseen challenges posed by the global pandemic, exacerbating the adjustment to online classes. With the unwavering support of a robust system, including a roommate sharing the same academic journey, I weathered challenges and advanced through the semesters.

The decision to pursue this major was one that aligns with my interests, offers fulfillment, and promises financial stability. I find solace in the fact that I have discovered a path that brings both enjoyment and prosperity, validating the twists and turns that led me to cybersecurity. Fast forward many semesters and I've declared my major and am currently 29 days away from graduating and receiving a bachelor's degree in cybersecurity.