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Second Year Celebration Essay

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### A Major Struggle and a Major Lesson

It is a Thursday afternoon, as a busy sophomore Biology major at Case Western Reserve University returns to her room, shuts her door, and begins to study for her Organic Chemistry exam the following Thursday. During her studies, she cannot stop thinking of how essential it is that she does well on this exam, based on her previous exam scores and how much she is struggling with several of her classes this term. She wonders how she will tell her parents how poorly she is doing, and how she will ever get her degree this way. This story is a depiction of my typical day during the first semester of my second year at Case Western Reserve University. My life now; however, is anything but miserable, because of the help and support I received from my major advisor, my parents, and my friends. Changing my major from Biology to French and Psychology has greatly improved my life as a student, and has taught me a very valuable lesson that I will remember for my remaining two years at Case and anything I choose to pursue after my time here.

During the many days I spent struggling with my classes, I sought advice from my friends, but I was very apprehensive about telling my parents due to the high expectations they have always held for me since high school. My parents have never accepted any of my grades to be lower than an A or a B, and I thought that if I told them how much I was struggling, and how miserable my major was making me, they would be very disappointed. I worried that they would view a change in major as me taking the easy way out and not rising to the challenge that I was facing. The day came; however, when I realized that I needed to tell them because I needed their advice about my predicament. When I finally called them, they were sure to remind me that they would be proud of me no matter what, as long as I tried my best, and they suggested that I make an appointment to see my advisor. I followed through on their advice, and found that my advisor was of the same opinion: he said that if my major was making me

miserable, I should do what I had a passion for, and not what I thought I had to do. From that day on, I remembered that what was most important was my happiness, and not for me to stick with something that was making me miserable. I changed my major to French and Psychology, because they are subjects that inspire me and make me think of going to class everyday as fun rather than a chore. Because of all the support I received from my family, friends, and advisor, I realized that I will never disappoint anyone as long as I am trying my best. Through my decision to change my major, and my exploration of my interests, I realized that happiness is most important in life, and I will remember this for the rest of my time at Case and in anything I choose to pursue after college.

During my second year at Case, I have explored some different opportunities available to students. I am now an active member of the French club, and I enjoy it very much. It is a wonderful chance for me to practice my French speaking with other students who are interested in the language as well. In addition, I am a member of the University Singers ensemble on campus, and I love going every week and being able to sing with the rest of the choir and perform in front of my friends and peers a few times each semester. I hope to continue with both of these activities for the rest of my time at Case, and may even run for an officer position in either of them. Next year, I hope to become a tutor in French, and maybe get a job with the Psychology department conducting psychological research on children. In addition, I have obtained information regarding spending a semester abroad; I am hoping to study in Paris for the spring semester of my junior year. I think it will be a wonderful experience and will open my eyes to another culture, making me a better-rounded person. I am very excited about my next two years at Case, especially now that I have learned that my happiness is most important, and that I will not disappoint anyone by doing what I love.

After my time at Case, I am not positive about what I want to do. I am trying to explore my career options and interests through the services provided at the Career Center on campus. I plan to shadow several professionals this summer in order to help me decide between a career as a French teacher, or possibly as a child psychologist. Whatever I decide to do, I will always remember the first

semester of my sophomore year, and the important lesson I learned about the importance of my happiness and trying my best.