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Values Reflection

The purpose of this assignment was to allow us to recognize how our values inform our decision making process making and better understand what specific values are important to us. One instance where my values affected my decision was in myrtle beach on my senior trip. Some of my friends partook in smoking weed, but it is something I really do not want to do because I value health. Its not because I think it will ruin my life but I have seen the type of people that smoke and they are not extremely productive and Since I have a lot of work to accomplish it doesn't seem like a logical thing to do. Over the years my values have changed. I am the type of person that is always willing to try new things be it food or activities. While I was in myrtle beach I eventually gave in and tried smoking weed. It was not something that I exactly hated but I felt lazy, unproductive and I thought it was a waste of money. This just affirmed my value to not smoke weed even further. From my experience I learned what it feels like to be high and now I can talk to my friends who try to persuade me in a light that is educated and I can just be honest with them on why I don't want to smoke. Additionally, Since weed is considered illegal it would have been optimal not to smoke, but it is in the past and I have no desire to do it again so I would never hold that against myself. Since I have been at college there has been many instances where people have tried persuaded me to try different drugs. I handled the situation very well and politely declined. The nice thing about college is many time people do not try to force you into uncomfortable situations.

Another instance where my values affected my decision was my college choice. I was accepted into many other good engineering programs, but when I weighed the cost of these other institutions with UC they were in no way a comparison. This affirmed my value of wealth. I normally look at every perspective from a logical side and after weighing all the benefits to attending a different university such as Purdue, University of Michigan or Berkley. Attending UC has put me in the top of the incoming freshman class, will cost me the least of all the schools I applied to and will allow me to pursue my passions in research. Additionally, my original decision to come to college stemmed from my love of learning. I some day hope to pursue a Phd, not because of a salary increase, but just for my love of research and my value to make the most of every day. College really is what you put into it.

Finally, I value love, family and commitment. All of these qualities have led me to not be sexually driven. While some of my friends in school only seemed interested in who they could sleep with, I was interested in finding someone intelligent I could relate to. Maybe it is all the disney princess movies I have watched but don't all of us want to find our prince charming? I have always been unsuccessful being in a committed relationship and for this reason I have always valued the commitment some of my friends could put into a relationship. Going into college its very hard when values conflict with other desires. In High School, I was not attracted to anyone, but I find it much harder not to think of "hooking up" in college. At the same time, I can not imagine ever doing anything with someone I don't love, so the likelihood of this ever happening is slight to none. These are just a couple instances where my values played a role in my decision making processes.