Unit 1 - 5.0 Assignment - Begin with the End in Mind.

“Would you tell me please which way I ought to walk from here?”

“That depends a good deal on where you want to get to,” said the Cat.

“I don’t much care where-“ said Alice.

“Then it doesn’t matter which way to walk,” said the Cat.

From Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland

When you think about plans for your future, do you ever feel like Alice? Alice wants to get somewhere, but she doesn’t know where she wants to go. As you can imagine, it is very difficult to give her directions. Without a plan or directions, where will Alice end up?

If you think about it, most things in life begin with a plan. We use blueprints when we build a house; we use a recipe for baking a cake; even getting your driver’s license requires a sequential step-by-step plan before it can be acquired. So if a house, a cake and your driver’s license deserve a plan, what about your life? Do you have a detailed plan that will help ensure that you get to your destination?

Follow the directions below very carefully.

A student sample is provided (return to main page).

Assignment

Requirements:

2-4 pages double-spaced, Single sided

Times New Roman font – 12 pt

Normal Margins

Strong English skills

Use the following guide in writing your paper:

Part 1:

Start your report with a detailed picture of what you would like your life to look like in eight years.

What job will you have?

Do you hope to be married?

What is your financial status?

What other details do you see?

Part 2:

Everything needs a plan! You have written what you want your life to look like in eight years; now, how are you going to get that?

Those that fail to plan

Plan to fail!

Starting with today, look at the next eight years in small steps (maybe 6-12 months). Very specifically and with great detail, outline what you need to get done and how you are going to accomplish this to make it to your final destination (in 8 years).

Part 3:

 Take a second look.

 With any life plan, you want it to be flexible and continually rewritten to adjust to the ever changing journey your life will take. What if, you decided to throw your plan totally out the window and live for the moment?

At this point in your essay, write about some realistic possibilities that may interfere with your plan. For example, if you make some choices such as becoming sexually active, letting your marks slip, fighting with your parents and moving out. What possible consequences could there be to these choices? How would this affect your plan?

The goal for this section is to take a realistic look at what your life may look like if you divert from your plan.

Part 4:

So where is this unique child of God headed?

Now that you have created this detailed plan and looked at possible outcomes, how do you feel? What things can you put in place to keep you focused on the final destination that you pictured?

Once you have completed your assignments, PASTE your assignment from Word. (click on the W in the middle row).

Here is a student sample for the "Begin with the End in Mind" assignment. Although, they did not receive 100%, they did receive a very good mark.

My Future Plan

In eight years from now I’m going to be living on a small farm or ranch near Swift Current or Saskatoon. I’ll be working as an elementary teacher, or maybe as a child and youth worker, and my husband will be working as a rancher or farmer. I hope my husband and I will be celebrating our third or fourth anniversary, and that we will have two children already. If we live on a ranch, then I want a wide variety of animals including horses, cattle, dogs, cats, chickens, goats, and rabbits. We won’t be rich, but we’ll be able to save enough money every year to afford trips to Disneyland and other places. I also hope we can save enough money to hire someone to watch our farm while we are away on trips.

To get to where I want to be in eight years I am going to take it one step at a time starting with finishing grade twelve. My next step will be to decide which career I would like to pursue. I am currently trying to decide between education and a child and youth worker. To help me decide on which career I would like, I want to shadow a teacher and child and youth worker to see what an average day is like. I believe it would help me to decide on which career I would prefer. Even if I have not decided on a career by the end of the year I will still apply to the University of Saskatchewan or SIAST in Saskatoon, and take general studies for the first year. Taking general studies the first year will give me more time to decide on a career and to decide if it is the career I want. The University of Saskatchewan is my first choice because a lot of my friends are there, it is a great school, and it has a lot of athletic programs. SIAST in Saskatoon is my second choice because I know it has the program I am looking for, and I am unsure if the U of S also has that program. The U of S has many scholarships available, which would be very useful since school is expensive and I do not have the money to put myself through four years of University. This is all part of my plan to reach where I want to be in eight years.

Many things can happen during your life that will throw off your entire plan for the future. I could decide after graduation that I don’t want to attend university immediately and decide to travel instead. That would throw off my plan to be done school and have a career in at least six years. It would throw off my plan because I would put off my schooling, and it could make it difficult for me to get back into the routine of school. I might suddenly change my mind about what career I want, or I might start University and decide I don’t like the career I’m going for. This would change how many years I spend in school and it could change where I end up living. I might not meet a man that I love within the next eight years, which would throw off my plan of being married. That would also change where I’d be living. If I let my grades slip it could affect the University or College I get into and my career. It is difficult to make a plan and stick to it because of all these things, and these are only a few of the many things that could happen that would throw off my plan.

I feel scared, overwhelmed, excited, and a whole lot of other things. Yes I have a plan, which will make things easier, but there are so many things that could happen that could change it all. I am scared because I don’t actually know what will happen, the future is unpredictable. I know where I want to be, but the challenge is actually getting there regardless of any obstacles in my way. I’m overwhelmed because there is so much that could go wrong and there is so much that I have to do to get where I want to be. I’m also overwhelmed because deciding what I want to do for the rest of my life is a huge decision. Eight years is a long time, even if it doesn’t feel like it, and I will probably change quite a bit in that time. I’m excited because it is intriguing to find out what will happen in the future. Will I get married? Where will I be living? Although I have a plan I don’t actually know where I’ll end up, or where I’ll be living. I have an idea of where I want to be, but it is not guaranteed anything could happen.