Hey Sameer!

How are you doing man? To think it's almost been a year since we last met... a lot has happened since then. For me, the biggest thing that happened was that I started going to college in January.

More specifically, I finally started the dual enrollment program at my high school that allows me to attend college classes and get an associate's degree in either Business Administration or Internet and Information Technology. I picked IIT since tech has been a lucrative industry for a while now and I've always been interested in it.

The campus experience itself has been a bit jarring and even embarrassing sometimes because although my peers and I fit in at our loud and bustling high school, we've stuck out on the quiet college campus, even during the busy opening week. However, my classes have felt more at home. So far, I've completed Introduction to College Life and Speech Communication and I'm currently taking Web Development and English Compostion.

Right off the bat, the main difference I've noticed between my college and high school classes is that my college classes are not necessarily harder than my high school ones but have a lot less hand-holding. It's true that these classes are meant for people who've already graduated from high school, but it's something to get used to nonetheless. Fortunately, I've managed my previous classes well (95s and above!) and I haven't yet encountered professors that don't account for the fact we are high school students or ones that mirror the horror stories I've read about professors online.

My first semester was mainly spent in Speech Communications—Introduction to College Life didn't introduce any concepts that were revolutionary to me—so that's what has mainly informed my college experience. The only downsides to this class were that they took place after school so we'd end up home at 5 pm, putting more pressure on us to get things done early, and that the lectures got repetitive by the end of the class. Otherwise, the professor was very kind and forgiving to us about exams and assignments and the speeches that we made ended up being pretty interesting and useful.

From the few days I've gone this semester, I have a feeling I'll like Web Development more than English Composition because the writing in Web Development is less restrictive and it's only a part of what we will primarily be doing, which is learning how websites work and how to create one. Our English professor also assigned a test to us on the first day, so take that as you will.

As for my plans on what to do with my IIT degree, I'm not sure. AI has thrown a wrench into the job market's clockwork, so the positions I research and train for today might not even exist in 5 years time. Building a future has become harder for many in recent years too. All I know for sure is that I want my career to be related to tech and that we must to seize the opportunities afforded to us to get ahead. I hope you're well and we can meet again soon.

Cheers.

- Raiyan Mohammad Rahman