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Prompt #5

### “New Beginnings”

The pressure has just begun. The feeling of your heart pumping so fast, that is the only thing you can hear. The sweaty palms you get, that almost feel like a river. You're pushed into an uncomfortable gate. Two walls are on each side of you, the only thing you can do is see ahead. The race has just started and the thrill of it has just begun. The gate is open and you take that first step of your new journey. “They're off”, the class of 2023 is gone.

Everyone has his or her path to take after high school, and figuring out what path you will choose can be difficult. The life you have lived and the memories you have made are what help you decide the path you will take. The path I have decided to take was impacted by horseracing, my dad's lifelong workplace. Entering high school, I was encouraged to start thinking about my future and what major I wanted to pursue. It seemed like everyone else knew exactly what they wanted to do. I had thought about it all through my high school experience, and the people I surrounded myself with helped me with that decision.

I have seen my dad waking up at five in the morning to get ready for work. Make his cup of coffee and watch a little TV before he left home to go work for the day. I don't know exactly what he does in the mornings for work but I have seen some parts of his routine. Ever since I can remember, I have seen my dad work at the racetrack. I have also been to the races to cheer on the horses. Therefore, I have a general idea of how things work. Seeing how things are done looks easy, but once you try it, it is harder than it seems. I have seen my dad prepare meals for the horses and clean up their stables, of course, he does a lot more than just that. You might think it

is easy, but for a person who is not around horses 24/7, it is harder than it seems. I know that I would not be able to do this. Of course, I love horses they are very beautiful creatures however, getting into their stables would totally freak me out, and aside from being beautiful, they are strong creatures that can hurt someone if not careful.

My dad and his workplace have been an influence on my decision to pursue higher education. I would not want to sit around at a job just petting horses watching everyone else putting in the work while I just stare around not knowing what to do. I have thought for a long time about what I want to major in and I know that the one thing I want to do is help people one way or another. When it came down to my decision, I choose Criminal Justice as my major. I did not choose this major to be a cop or a lawyer; I chose this because I want to help solve crime cases whether that is through CSI or a Forensics Photographer. I am not quite sure which one I want to be yet but I know I want to study criminal justice. I find it fascinating, for example, to learn about the human body, mind, and soul and how it relates to crime. I was told that for these types of jobs, you have to be strong especially mentally because of all the things you will encounter. I understand that and I want to make a difference in the world, even the smallest things can help. My goal is to help solve crime cases in the future, so I can try to bring back a safe feeling to families.

We all have goals in our lifetime; they can be short-term or long-term. Most of the time reaching such goals will not be easy and hard work and dedication are needed to reach them. However, easy means being comfortable which means you are not pushing yourself enough to reach higher goals. You have to challenge yourself in life and see how far you can go to live the life you have always wanted. Anything is possible when you put your mind and your heart into it. High School has taught me so many things and graduating has opened up a new chapter in my

life. I am ready to see what the world has in store for me and what my new adventure will be.

For right now, all I know is that my new adventure is waiting for me at the College Of DuPage

where I will be studying Criminal Justice.