

9th Grade Exhibition
"What's the Evidence of My Learning?"

Due Date: May 11, 2009

Overview: Each year ATC High School students are required to participate in an Exhibition demonstrating evidence of their learning. Your Exhibition will be in the form of a reflective essay which will be graded by one of your teachers this term.

****Choose a quotation that is meaningful to you, and organize your essay around its main ideas.*** It should be a quote from a noteworthy person (living or deceased) that shows who you are now. Use the quote as your essay title. Make sure you attribute the quote to the person who originally spoke those words!

Using the quotation you have chosen, reflect upon your experiences, both personal and academic during your freshman year at ATC.

- **Comment upon the most impressive experiences.**
- **Focus on areas of growth and change.**
- **Focus on what you believe to be significant about the knowledge and skills you have acquired**
- **Include a discussion of at least ONE outstanding project that you completed this year and discuss what you learned from it. Be specific: first explain the project to the reader, then show the reader what you learned from it and why that learning is important to you.**

The reflection must be approximately 500 words, typed, double-spaced, with a cover sheet. The essay will be collected by the teacher grading it on May 11th. **The grade you receive will count in EACH of your four classes.**

Remember, the essay should be

- 500 words
- Double-spaced with cover sheet
- Use a readable, 12 pt. font.
- Use standard margins.
- Use your best composition skills. This essay must be in perfect condition...no spelling, grammatical, typing errors----proofread again and again.

“Two roads diverged in a wood, and /I took the one less traveled by, /And that has made all the difference.” (Robert Frost).

This quote from Robert Frost’s poem, “The Road Less Traveled” captures for me the feeling I have about being a student this past year at ATCHS. My friends in the neighborhood chose the well-worn path to go to their home school. I, however, with the help of my parents, decided to come to Atlantic Technical Magnet High School. This choice changed my life now and will continue to influence me in the future.

I continued to make different choices throughout the school year. For example, in my English class, I chose to take the Honors option, which made extra work for me. One of these pieces of work which I felt was a quality product was my website project about Sponge Bob. I didn’t want my essay to be just another report on Sponge Bob, so I chose to focus on the question, “How did Sponge Bob influence the development of computer animation?” I had to do a lot of research because this information was not readily available. I learned to use the online databases as well as search the internet more effectively. I found that I had to be careful about what I found on some websites, as many of them had inaccurate information or opinions, not facts. It was difficult for me to put the research in my own words, since in the past, I often copied straight from my source. The hardest thing for me to do was to budget my time wisely. While my friends were at the mall on weekends, I sometimes chose to stay home or go to the library to work on the paper. I earned a “B” on the project and I was proud of myself for staying with the project and completing it on time.

Another “less traveled” path that I took led me into an unpleasant conflict with several so-called friends. I found out that two of my friends were selling answers to chemistry homework questions. This put me in a difficult position. While I didn’t want to report my friends to administration, I didn’t approve of what they were doing either. I knew that cheating was

wrong, but wanted to be loyal to my friends. When they asked me to join them in their “business,” I said, “No” even though I risked losing their friendship. In this case, the path “less traveled” led me away from my friends, who didn’t understand my point of view.

Another crossroads I encountered this year had to do with Calculus. I have always struggled in math ever since elementary school. A series of mean teachers and impossible assignments gave me “math phobia.” This year, however, I decided to face my fears and committed myself to success in Calculus. I attended AEP sessions after school where I received extra help. While my friends played basketball and went to the mall, I sat home at the kitchen table with my mom, struggling to master equations. My hard work was rewarded when I received an “A” on my final exam. I was never so proud of any effort of mine before. For me, working hard to master a difficult subject was the “road less traveled.”

I hope that I can live my life making good decisions. I’ve learned that even though taking the road less traveled may not be easy, it is worthwhile. Making my own decisions has helped me grow in confidence. I know now that I can be my own person and not rely on what my friends do. For me, the path less traveled has its own rewards.