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Reflection: The Last Lecture

I really enjoyed watching this video, and reflecting on how I live my life and approach my goals and pursuits. Randy Pausch uses his life goals as a jumping off point to explore how people learn, how people express themselves, and how we navigate our various endeavors, both professional and personal. I’d say I was most affected by his general attitude about life, being enthusiastically willing to try new things and put himself out there, seeing mistakes and negative feedback as an opportunity for growth, and happily embracing outlandish new ideas. Overall, I just find this attitude really inspiring, and the successes that he describes as a result of this approach make me want to really focus on approaching my education in the same way. More specifically, I enjoyed thinking about what he described as “head fake learning,” the things that you learn indirectly through the experience of some more specific pursuit. Early on he gives the example of learning teamwork and perseverance through sports, but I can think of lots of other examples from my own life, like learning communication skills through working retail, or learning about cultural differences and diversity by remodeling people’s homes. I think that looking at experiences in this way allows for a new understanding of the value they hold, and this seems very directly applicable to classroom education as well. I hope to be open-minded and receptive in my studies, in order to learn all of both the direct and indirect lessons they have to offer.