

WHERE ARE YOU...?

Where are you, right now, at this moment?

Right now, I am laying in my bed, on VCU campus, in my residence hall — Brandt Hall — on the intersection of West Franklin street and North Laurel Street. I sometimes think about the series of events, connections, and personal growth that led to this very moment. To me, laying in my bed, in my senior year at this university, I think about the times where I felt lost, the times where I felt unsure, the times I felt unprepared to face the days ahead. I think about the various people who saw my potential and encouraged me to push forward. Here I am, at this moment, writing this essay, reflecting on how I arrived at this place.

Do you ever just sit and think about how different your life could have been, if you didn't go in a certain direction? A single choice could lead you into being a completely different person than you are now. I think about this alot. There was a really crucial decision in my life that could have drastically changed where I would be, right now. One choice and I would have never met the people I hold dear to me. One choice and I wouldn't be laying in this bed right now, but in a bed miles from here. Things like that keep me up some nights. Imagining the endless possibilities that my life could have taken. However, I am comfortable here. Glad that I made the decisions I did to get to this point. Glad to have met the people who I will proudly call my friends. Glad to have these experiences that led me to where I am right now.

One thing I learned about myself while living, learning, and working during a global pandemic, is that I very much put a lot of worth in the people I meet, even if I only interact with them for a short period of time. I greatly appreciate all of the people around me who made the pandemic a bit more bearable, whether it be my family, my coworkers, or my friends in college. Making connections with other people is very important to me. I try to surround myself with different types of people who don't necessarily have the same thoughts or opinions as I do. I feel like that could make me a well rounded person. A person who can see things from different points of view.

I guess when thinking about the future, I can't predict where I will be or what I would be doing. I try not to think about it too much. Honestly, it's been my main source of stress at the moment. I just can't wrap my head around the fact that I'm going to be out in the real world in just under a year. It's easier to think about what I've been through instead of thinking about the unknown. I'm just taking it one step at a time, just going with the flow. In the future I want to continue to remember the things and people that will influence who I become. I've made it this far, so it won't be too difficult to continue doing so.

Like I said in the beginning, I'm writing this in bed and it's about 2 am. This is literally what I think about in the moments before I go to sleep. One big mind dump.