***The Last Lecture* Response**

The Last Lecture was a heavy video to watch. It hit me in a lot of ways. After watching, I was forced to look inward a bit and I realized I’ve never been the type to have “childhood dreams.” It’s an odd thing to admit, but I even asked my mother what her thoughts might be. According to her I didn’t feel like narrowing my options and having a specific dream would have stood in the way of anything else I might have wanted on a whim. Honestly, I found that realization a bit depressing (and the video was both uplifting and depressing). I mean, I know we all can “be anything we want to be,” but truly we can only be what we put effort into becoming. I’ve spent a lot of my life working for businesses that do not appreciate their employees. I believe my coming back to school has been a big step forward for me in this part of living a fulfilling life.

Having never made any concrete decisions about what I want to do with my life (or career) has certainly left me with no idea what I *should* do with my life. I’ve worked in many fields and have had all sorts of great experiences. My greatest accomplishment is my marriage, and I was glad to see the video say that family and love is truly more important than dreams even are.

I lost my father when I was in high school. Death has been a character in my life for a long time. I’m less afraid of it as I used to be, but it still has a large effect on me. I found a lot of hope in *The Last Lecture.* I believe a life well lived is a life worth living, and I hope to be able to look back the way Randy Pausch seems to be able.

It’s easy for me to say that the childhood dream element of the video had a large effect on me, maybe not the largest, but that impression has lingered the longest. I’d like to be better at setting goals and having dreams. It is my hope that school will continue to be as fulfilling as it has been for me these past couple years, because living in a happy now, sometimes, feels like as good as it gets.