My name is Caden Steele and I have just completed my freshman year at Montana State University. Transfering from a small private high school in Seattle, Washington, I was not mentally prepared for the rigors of college. The first semester at Montana State University, my grade point average reflected the distractions I was experiencing and the pressures I was under to make things work. I had never lived on my own before, and trying to balance life responsibilities and school work was more than I could handle. I felt pressure to be involved socially and didn’t realize until it was too late that I was not able to find stability in all aspects of college life.

Second semester, knowing that I needed support, I tried to use the campus resources to the best of my ability. This included the Math Learning Center, which I attended two to three times a week. I also utilized the Center for Student Success, which helped me learn how to manage my time by setting up study schedules. They even helped me with a sleep schedule so that I didn’t miss morning classes. Though these resources were of help to me and my grade point average did rise by a few points, it was unfortunately too little too late.

I am in the oldest in my family and there is a lot of pressure on me to be successful in college and in life. I did not realize just how much those expectations meant to my family and, ultimately, to me. Did I have fun in college? Yes, of course. However, I am embarrassed by my academic performance. This is not the young man I sent out to be and I realize now that academic success is important; important to my family, important to my future, and important to me.

I am fully aware that I did not experience any significant illness or trauma my freshman year of college. This appeal is solely based on my inexperience away from home and my inability to balance my social life and school work. Should the appeals committee see to it that my scholarship be reinstated, academics will be my focus from now until graduation. I want to be proud of my college experience in all aspects, and this appeal is the start to make things right and start anew.