# Background

I have been experimenting with an idea of self-directed learning for several months now.

I took self-directed learning to mean learning in which the individual has complete control and responsibility over what he is learning. The individual is also fully responsible for finding his own resources and mentors. This implies that he is free to decide the relative emphasis placed on formal and informal learning.

Until recently, I have been primarily focused on two questions:
1. Can I actually self-direct my learning?
2. Is it beneficial to emphasize self-directed learning in adult life?

# The Outcome

My exploration so far seems to answer the above questions positively. It has also greatly encouraged me to consider making such self-directed learning a central part of my life.

This will mean that I will be stepping out of the 'mainstream' and to do so requires a leap of faith in myself.

I believe that by building support structures and networks to ensure this endeavour's productivity and sustainability, this leap can be achieved. This is what I have shifted my focus to. I intend to take the next semester off to explore and start building these structures and networks.

# What I will be doing

As a start, I will be trying to link up with people who are already pursuing such a path and will be exploring financial 'safety nets'.

So far, I have joined a couple of online mailing lists for adults who have educated themselves without going to school. I have also started looking into how skills could be could be tapped to provide extra income as and when necessary.

As my exploration continues, I intend to learn more from the people I am linking up with. If I could start a learning project in collaboration with any of them, it would be a bonus.

I also expect myself to zoom into certain skills for deeper consideration and be open to other means of financial 'safety nets'.

# Why I need the semester off

The initial 'push' to start off such an initiative requires a great deal of time and 'space'. Pursuing both my university course and this experiment at the same time will lead me to neglect one over the other or give inadequate effort for both. Once the initial framework is in place, it should be possible to pursue both together.