1. Intro
   1. I’ve already spent two whole semesters here at Texas A&M, but I’ve never been to a football game, never been to midnight yell, never been to silver taps, and the only maroon in my closet is the free class of 2026 shirt I got from my NSC.
   2. The traditions of Texas A&M are a core component to what makes this school so unique, and oftentimes defines what it means to be an Aggie.
   3. Despite this, I believe that there are many other defining aspects of this school that people may overlook.
   4. For me personally, despite not participating in traditions, being at Texas A&M has significantly transformed my personal, social, and academic perspectives, drawing me closer to understanding the essence of being an Aggie.
   5. Today, I'll share how my journey at Texas A&M, from its vast campus to its rigorous academic setting, has reshaped my view on relationships and personal growth.
2. Body 1
   1. My journey all began with the start of the fall semester of last year.
   2. As an incoming freshman, I was both eager to jump into college and start this new important chapter of my life, but I was also reluctant to leave my friends and home life behind.
   3. One thing that’s different about me from most other people here at Texas A&M is that I am from out of state.
   4. I grew up and spent my whole life up to college in a relatively rural part of New Jersey
   5. The vastness of Texas A&M and the distance from my home created a special social landscape that taught me lessons in independence and the value of relationships.
   6. We all know that being independent is essential in college
   7. I have a story to illustrate this.
      1. Quite obviously, I have to fly every time I go between College Station and New Jersey.
      2. To save money, I fly a lot on spirit airlines.
      3. Aside from bad seats and poor service, they are mostly known for their delays.
      4. Going back for last spring break, I was flying from Houston to Philadelphia with a 20 minute layover in Fort Lauderdale.
      5. At this point yall can probably connect the dots; my flight was delayed, I missed my connecting flight and was stranded in fort Lauderdale.
      6. Getting rebooked was a struggle since all fights from fort Lauderdale to Philadelphia were full for the next two days
      7. I knew I had to figure this out for myself.
      8. After a lot of back and forth with the agent, I managed to get on a flight to LaGuardia the next morning.
   8. Being this far from home also meant that I could only see my high school friends during break.
      1. I was lucky to have a group of amazing people I could call my second family.
      2. Back home we would hang out all the time, and each others company meant a lot to all of us
   9. Not being able to physically be with my high school friends made me appreciate them more and cherish the time with them
   10. Realizing their important, I looked for similar people here at Texas A&M I could connect with on a similar level.
3. Body 2
   1. While the social landscape of Texas A&M shaped my interactions, the academic environment of Texas A&M helped cultivate my diligence and introspective side.
   2. Texas A&M's academic rigor, especially within the College of Engineering, fostered my motivation and helped cultivate a deeper philosophical perspective in me.
   3. The "Entry to a Major Process" in the College of Engineering was both a challenge and a motivator.
      1. For those unaware, freshmen engineers, like I was, take a general curriculum for a year and then apply to our desired majors.
      2. I was aiming to do computer science, but so was everyone else and their mothers.
      3. This meant that the only way to get my major was to maintain a 3.75 gpa for automatic entry.
   4. As someone who bsed all my classes in high school, I was unsure if I could get at most one or two Bs for freshman year.
   5. However, the challenge made me reflect on my past and helped motivate me to better myself academically.
   6. These academic challenges I faced in the classroom also led me to question the purpose behind my actions outside the classroom as well.
      1. Confronting rigorous courses made me reflect on the reasons behind my ambitions.
      2. Without an obvious ultimate purpose, my efforts felt meaningless.
      3. Realizing this, I looked to things that bring me satisfaction and joy.
      4. This academic journey led me to adopt a more philosophical approach to life, valuing introspection and seeking deeper meaning.
4. Conclusion
   1. From personal connections to academic endeavors, my experience at Texas A&M extends beyond traditions.
   2. At Texas A&M, it's not just the traditions that define our experience. It's the personal growth, the bonds we forge, and the academic challenges that truly embody being an Aggie.
   3. While I might never be the most traditional Aggie, my unique journey at Texas A&M has imprinted its values deeply within me, making me a true Aggie in spirit.
5. Intro
   1. I’ve already spent two whole semesters here at Texas A&M, but I’ve never been to a football game, midnight yell, or silver taps, and the only maroon in my closet is the free class of 2026 shirt I got from my NSC.
   2. Traditions important – make school unique, defines what it means to be an aggie
   3. Despite no tradition, texas A&M shape personally and academically
6. Body 1
   1. Started one year ago
   2. Enthusiast to start but reluctant to leave
   3. Since from nj, coming here big change
   4. Independent ++, relationship ++
   5. Being far from home means lots of flying
   6. can get interesting sometimes … (story)
7. Body 2
   1. While social … Texas a&m academic…
   2. Never had to try this hard
   3. Because of Etam
   4. Questioned if I was capable
   5. Inspired drive
8. Conclusion
   1. My unique Texas A&M narrative is much more than just traditions.
   2. At Texas A&M, it's not just the traditions that define our experience. It's the personal growth, the bonds we forge, and the academic challenges that helped me truly embody what It means to be an Aggie.
   3. I might never be the most traditional Aggie, but that’s okay.
   4. My unique journey at Texas A&M has imprinted its values deeply within me, making me a true Aggie in spirit