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Assignment 6: Autumn Quarter Reflection

I think that UW has been an overall very positive experience for me.

My expectation for UW, as someone who had grown up in the greater Seattle area, was mediocre, simply because there were very few people whom I knew who I could say had a great experience at UW. While they said that classes were okay, the people were less interesting compared to some of my other friends who went to out of state colleges.

I feel like that experience differed a lot from my friends' in some respects but was very similar in others.

I can agree with many of my friends that the classes here at UW available for freshmen are definitely easier than those at my high school. In high school, I usually spent my whole day working on homework and studying, and generally got to sleep around 1 am. There was little time that I spent during weekdays, and while I had weekends to hang out with friends, there was always an expectation that work would be getting done during the weekends. This contrasts with the workload here at the UW, because there is very little homework and much easier tests. For almost all of my classes, I can simply do the homework the day before, and start studying for tests the day before. Little pressure to work exists, and I still do just as well on the course.

The freedom the extra time gives me is incredibly nice. I'm finding that most days I can finish my homework within two hours and spend the extra time hanging out with friends. Unlike in high school where I had no time for hobbies, in college, I have ample time to do whatever I want. Ironically, despite the fact that I wished I had more time in high school for my hobbies, I have fewer activities that I'm excited to do. Reflecting on my experience at UW has made me realize that my only two hobbies in high school were coding and playing tennis. Fun, but very much solo activities.

The size of UW has also been an interesting change of pace. My class in high school was only about 150 students, in a school with 600 students in total. As a result, I knew most of the students there by name, and the class was very tightknit. This is compared to about forty thousand students total here at the University of Washington. The groups here at UW are much more disparate and compartmentalized – I have friends I play tennis with, friends I do homework with, and friends I go to classes and clubs with. Very little mix in between, unlike in high school.

The UW Honors community within UW has been quite interesting. Though I initially thought that all the Honors 100 assignments would be a waste of time, I've been pleasantly surprised to find they've been quite useful. Through these assignments along with my Honors history class, I've met a lot of very passionate people.

Overall, it's been a solid 8/10. Looking forward, I'm excited to explore all the opportunities the UW provides and meet many more passionate and motivated students.