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Honors 100 BN
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Assignment 3: Experiential Learning

Section 1

I interviewed Christina Wardwell, a fellow Washingtonian heralding from sunny Spokane. Throughout the interview, she exhibited a strong curiosity for the topics she talked about and consistently found humor in the topic of conversation.

In high school, Christina played tennis, ran cross-country, hiked as part of her school's hiking club, and played the piano. Most interestingly, she helped to run a radio station that hosted local singers, bands, and also reported on current news events. This passion for news and journalism has carried through into her decision to double major in journalism and design. Christina's interest in journalism comes from her curiosity about the "hidden workings" of the world connecting disparate topics. For example, she brought up research she did connecting health care providers' greed to their investments in fast food companies. Christina's love for aesthetics and desire to effectively communicate data drives her to learn more about visual design.

Christina also would like to learn more about sailing in college. This interest, she says, comes from her want to deeply explore the world. While Christina already knows how to drive, which gives her freedom on land, she does not know how to captain a boat. By learning how to sail, Christina can travel the world by both land and sea, granting her total freedom of movement.

These past activities and current interests connect with Christina's core values of independence, initiative, and grit. The value of independence was chosen because Christina believes that journalists must first and foremost be able to conduct independent investigations and reveal hidden truths of the world. Next, initiative was chosen because Christina wants to take advantage of every opportunity that comes her way. Finally, grit was chosen because she believes that while initiative and enthusiasm can allow a person significant progress towards their goal, in order to complete the goal and do a thorough job, one must persevere even through the uncomfortable moments. She believes that these values will help her to become a more informed and proactive person who can take on the challenges of her future and ultimately make an impact on the world.

Section 2

I think Christina should consider doing a journalism fellowship at the New York Times (NYT) during her undergrad. This activity is a one-year-long fellowship working as a journalist for the NYT, where fellows also gain exposure and experience to different aspects of running a news business such as digital syndication, multi-media infographics, advertising, and the economics of running a business. This would fit into Christina's core values as working at the NYT not only provides her a way to research real-world topics, but also make an impact through publishing them to NYT's global audience. Christina would have an opportunity to work independently during this time, along with collaboratively with other NYT journalists. I heard

about this opportunity through a friend who is also interested in working at the NYT and helping decision-makers make informed decisions about upcoming trends in politics and economics.

I think Christina should also apply to be an intern at the Reporters Without Borders organization. Reporters Without Borders is an organization that advocates and supports reporters in countries around the world. At Reporters Without Borders, Christina would be writing about reporters in the field doing journalism, managing the organization's network of contacts, and managing its advocacy network in universities. This matches Christina's interests in journalism, and also her core values of initiative and independence, because she would be helping to promote the dissemination of important information to people across the world. I also found this opportunity after researching non-traditional career pathways using the UW website.

Section 3

Through doing this assignment, I realized that I was interested in also doing a job that allows me the freedom and independence to travel around the world. Looking at the different career opportunities available to designers and reporters, one commonality is the ability to pick their own assignments and work locations. For example, graphic designers often transition from working at a job to owning a consultancy, which allows them to pick in places like New York City, San Francisco, and Los Angeles.

As a result of doing this assignment, I discovered the career resources that UW has on its website exploring non-traditional pathways. One such event was hosted by the UW CSE student advisory council, which bridges together CSE faculty and students. The event I found helped students discover non-conventional pathways by hosting UW alumni that took non-traditional jobs but still found ways to be successful. I appreciate the breadth of programming that the UW puts on to help their students find success.

Word Count: 762