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# Life After High School

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## Life after High School

Going to college seemed like the only thing to do after I graduated from high school. All throughout my educational experience my teachers, parents, and family members talked about how I had to do well in my classes so I could go to college. I understood that going to college meant picking a career that I would pursue, but did not know what happens to people who decide not to go to college.

My town's school system puts a lot of pressure on its students to go to college. They have many resources and workshops to prepare its students for a higher education, but never talk about what, besides college, is out there. I know some of my classmates decided to take a gap year before applying to colleges, and others travel or apply to a full time job that do not need a degree. All of those decisions work for different people and have results that may be similar to going to college seeing how many college graduates still find it difficult to get a job with their degree. Personally, none of these options were possible for me because I want to be a teacher. I cannot become a teacher without graduating from a college and passing my licensure tests. In the end, I wanted to go to college and it was my choice, not anyone else's.

Although I am going to school to learn how to be a teacher, there is no guarantee that I will get a job in a school system since college degrees are not as valuable as they were in the past. In order to have a better chance of getting a job I always focus on school first. I go to my professors' office hours and to the tutoring center. Unlike many students who go to college for the "college experience" of living in a dorm and being away from their families, I am more concerned about finances and my classes, so I commute. By commuting I am able to work to pay for my education, and I also have more time and less distractions while completing assignments and studying. School comes first but I still have time to enjoy the other opportunities and events the school has, so I am still having a college experience even though it is different from living in a dorm.

Another way I plan on bettering my chances of becoming a teacher is by getting as much experience in a classroom as I can. I plan on volunteering at my town's elementary schools over winter break. Not only will I have experience in a classroom, but I will also work with teachers who can give me more knowledge about the field, and maybe would not mind writing me reference letters.

It is harder for college graduates to find jobs, even after they receive their degree. However, there are many opportunities for students to increase their chances of getting a job after finishing their college education.