

Grade 9 Unit 1 EA 1 Writing an Interview Narrative

Score: Exemplary

Upon first interacting with Kris, you get the impression that she is a rung higher than you are in intelligence. Whether it's the turtleneck sweater, or her calm disposition, she emulates brilliance. However, this level of calm and intelligence could not have been achieved without Kris's years of schooling. To learn more about how her college experience contributed to the confident woman she is today, I decided to interview her about that experience. When I first began to talk to her, she was extremely calm, and only gave a minimal answer. However, she quickly opened up and it was simply like having a conversation.

Her college adventure all began when she was 16 and living in De Pere, Wisconsin, a small suburb of Green Bay. Most of her life she had gone to Catholic girls school. However, she knew that she didn't want to go to a parochial school anymore. When she began her search for a university, one school stood out in her mind. The University of Wisconsin in Madison was the top college in Wisconsin. She remarked that she chose it for "academic and financial advantages." Coming from a family of 11, in which everyone went to college, finances were of the utmost priority. For this reason, she still applied to University of Marquette as a backup college. It turned out to be unnecessary, as Kris soon learned, because she was easily accepted into UW. This was a major event in her life. She explained that, "Getting into UW was one of the greatest things that's ever happened to me, even if I didn't realize it at the time." However, even though she got in, she didn't stop trying in school. She ended up finishing 3rd in her class, which she claimed she is still proud of today.

When she first arrived at college, she was slightly overwhelmed. Kris explained that, "I had always lived in a relatively controlled environment where I had very little freedom. But when I got to college, I could literally do whatever I

wanted.” The first thing that surprised her was the fact there were boys in the classes, something that was new to her because she had attended Catholic school. “Also,” she remarked, “the professors actually had experience with what they were talking about.” Her first experience at college was very positive. She explained that she and her roommate were instant friends. “I liked her so much, that we were roommates for 2 years in a row.”

At first, Kris had her mind set on business. She began attending business school, but had to take an economics class to graduate. Kris explained economics as “a social science, with math.” This combined her two favorite things, social science and math. Kris decided to major in it. She also majored in International Relations because it sounded interesting.

In her sophomore year of college she started a Circle K Club, which is the university-level equal of Key Club, which she was the president of. This club was very successful, and the first of its kind at University of Wisconsin. Between this, her studies, and her various boyfriends, she had very little time for leisurely activities. However, she still managed to make some life long friends.

Her life was so busy that before she knew it, Kris was a senior. She had done very well overall, but still had a thirst for knowledge. Without taking a second off, she applied to the master’s program at the University of Wisconsin. Soon, she was literally getting paid to get her masters. “It was a crazy time in my life,” Kris said as she reflected back. After 2 years, she graduated. However, this did not mean her life would get any less hectic. She decided to have a kid with her husband, followed by getting her PhD. Her doctorate took a bit longer to get, she explained, because she had to balance her new child and school. But, she complete the degree within 6 years.

Kris attended 24 years of school. But she claimed that she didn’t regret it for a second. When questioned on how it affected her life, she simply replied with, “In what ways hasn’t it affected my life? I wouldn’t have my job, I wouldn’t have my friends, and I wouldn’t even be married to the same person I am today.”

That quote truly portrays the importance of college to young adults. Patty not only earned knowledge from school, but also gained life experiences. And those experiences have helped to make her the calm, confident woman she is today.

Score: Exemplary

Annotation:

This Exemplary Interview narrative is notable for its sophisticated and purposeful presentation of an interview in the narrative mode. The structure of the interview, and its presentation of the subject of the interview seamlessly work together to present a well-delineated and informational presentation of a person and the significance of her collegiate experience. The essay begins with an engaging and detailed description of the subject of the interview, describing her as wearing a “turtleneck sweater” and as appearing calm and confident. The next few paragraphs reflect a choice to present a bit of personal background to set the context of the college experience, and then proceeds to a clearly focused chronological set of experiences that present an engaging and authentic portrait of the interviewee. The paragraph development is characterized by a balance of paraphrase and well-chosen, expertly embedded quotes that reveal the particular character and voice of the interviewee. The organization and details demonstrate a control over the progress and development of the narrative. The essay also demonstrates a superior command of sentence variety and transitional devices that guide the reader naturally and purposefully through the interview. Minor typographical and spelling errors do not dislodge this effort from its exemplary position.