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English 101-031

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A Letter to Myself as a Freshman in High School

Dear Riley,

This letter is from your future self in college. Right now you are beginning the journey through high school and will learn so much more about writing. I am still not the best at it, but there will be a lot of growth from where you are now. There will be a lot of stress but what comes with it is valuable knowledge to improve your writing and grow more confident. Writing comes in handy for many subjects so pay attention in class and stop playing Clash of Clans.

Everyone from middle school is going to JH Rose while you are stuck going to South Central. I know you feel scared and like you don't know anyone at school because they all went somewhere else. Trust me, the friendships that will be made at South Central are much deeper and real than the friendships you would have at Rose. Rose won't be beating us in basketball for the first few years so you can make fun of your friends there for that. As far as soccer goes, you will be a part of school history. You will become a key player and help take the team to the playoffs for the first time. Stick with the sport you love because at the darkest moments there is always soccer to turn to.

Your English teacher in the spring semester is awesome and will help out with college applications. Ms. Howard's warm ups everyday might seem awful at the time, trust me I still think about them to this day. That is where I learned that those weird grammar rules actually make sense. Her teaching style made you learn more about writing and the process without even

realizing it. Reading texts such as “Romeo and Juliet” is fun as a class because everyone seems so into the story. Ms. Howard also appreciates some corny jokes and is a good way to make her day better. Teachers are also people, which is weird to think about, and she turns to her students when things in life get hard.

DO NOT MESS AROUND WITH MS. DARDEN. English II will be harder than the AP classes you take or any math from Pitt Community College. When I tell you she does not mess around, I mean it. She will be strict and will take points off your papers just because she feels like it. She’s actually pretty cool outside the classroom but it will be a challenge. Be glad you will get Ms. Darden because now anything seems possible. A great take away from that class is that most things in life have a process. No paper, soccer skill, friendship, or GPA will be perfect over one night. Put time into the important things to value in life. Don’t put time or money into smaller and ultimately meaningless things just because other people are. For example, some of your best friends will start smoking and doing drugs. Stick to what you know is right and what you know will last longer. Spend that time and money on school, soccer, and something or someone that means something to you. Another thing is to be open about what you write down in a paper. Ms. Darden will help you realize you can convey how you feel about something through writing. All that work in that class pays off because there is no question you will be ready for that exam.

Nothing will be able to prepare you for 2020. Everything in school and life seems to be going great. Lil Uzi drops an album and you get word spring break will be extended because of a virus called COVID-19. This is where everyone’s life gets turned upside down. The biggest challenge will be going from being a social butterfly to wanting to stay in the house all day because you are so used to it. Social anxiety will enter your life when it was never there before.

Going out to a big group of people will feel weird and nerve wrecking all because you will be used to staying at home all the time. Mom becomes really strict and starts to worry about you more than ever. COVID starts so many family arguments and almost tears the house apart because you will want to keep seeing a few friends when people should be at home. There are times you think you are about to be the reason a divorce happens. The best advice I can give from the future is to listen to what your parents have to say and don't argue when there is no point.

Remember that family comes first. Always.

Through all these challenging experiences, you will come to realize writing isn't that bad. There can be so many worse things to deal with than a paper. Take these challenges in life as learning opportunities to grow. Take the lessons in school seriously because writing papers will be there for life. Take the lessons learned from Mom and Richard because life moves fast. You will be on your own before you know it. Enjoy these four years and it will turn out alright in the end.

Sincerely,

Your Freshman in College Self.