

The poem below is a reflection upon one of the most influential years of my undergraduate career at the University of Cincinnati.

Sophomore Year

Shannon Reid

Whoa! I can't believe it! It's finally here,
the bright, spring close of my sophomore year.
Leadership was a theme to say the least;
fresh challenges and experiences never ceased.

As a Resident Advisor, several skills were honed:
professional, social, and personal—I grew into my own.
My first year in this position was both stressful and fun.
I got to know the residents and my team, each and every one.
We laughed, we learned, we lived together.
Each person I met helped me develop for the better.

Mock trial was an area of significant growth as well.
We helped each other whenever one of us fell.
As Captain, I learned how to embody a greater leader.
Participative and transformational—from these styles I wouldn't deter.
I improved in my ability to argue our case.
I gained more confidence and knowledge with each team we faced.
From Regionals, to ORCS, to the National Championship Tournament,
my love for the intellectual sport became more permanent.

What I appreciate more than anything from my experiences this year,
are the friends I gained and the memories I hold dear.
If I could change one thing, it would be the way I managed my time.
Procrastination is certainly a recurring battle of mine.
I was busier with school and organizations than I was in the past;
my involvement and course load this year were in stark contrast.
But through it all I persevered with support and drive.
Now I can finally say, "Sophomore Year? I survived!"

So what's the next step on a journey halfway done?
New thrills and experiences, one after one.
But along with new beginnings comes new goals and dreams,
the seizing of opportunities and whatever my future may deem.

I joined Student Government, I'm excited to say.
As a member of Cabinet, students' interests I'll convey.

As Director of State Policy, I'll follow legislation on Higher Ed.
and help to inform students and ensure we stay ahead.

I plan to continue my role as a Resident Advisor,
raising the sense of community in my hall just a little bit higher.

Along with these roles comes a new academic phase.
It's junior year—harder classes, more work and essays.
But more than anything, my goal is to get straight As.
When it comes time to apply for law school,
I know hard work always pays.

So, my future self, my advice to you:
Don't procrastinate!
Don't stay up late!
And strive for greatness in all that you do.