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University Frames Essay Submission

History Major to Business Analyst

Next May, after I graduate, I plan to be a business analyst in a tech company. How did I choose this path? I like to market myself as tech-savvy enough for technical people and humanistic enough for the business and legal people. I want to translate what customers want into technological specifications, and I want to communicate technological details to businesspeople. It might be surprising, but my college career as a history major taught me many valuable lessons about communications and data, and I look forward to applying these lessons in the workforce.

College also taught me to take advantage of opportunities. I decided to go to school in New York City, and the vast industry and job market gave me the ability to work at real companies during school. I have already interned at three startups, and they have allowed me to practice many skills that I will need for my future.

Thus far I have worked only at very early-stage startups. The oldest firm I worked for was 6 years old, and the youngest was less than 1 year old. So going forward, I would like to pick up some experience at a more established firm so that I can learn the ins-and-outs of running a company, maintaining investors, and keeping everything balanced before I strike out on my own.

But there is much more involved in engaging in the technology industry than one's own short-term career goals. So much changes every day in the tech world, and it intersects with new industries and subjects every day. So I intend to devote a lot of time to staying up-to-date on tech news. This will help to train me to recognize new opportunities, but it will also expose me to interesting problems and technologies. In college I've planted the seeds for growth by reading Ycombinator's *Hacker News* every day, which always gets my mind going.

To conclude, engaging in the technology industry involves advancing in my career and always learning about new things. I have tried to start good habits on both of these fronts now so that I can stay sharp once I start working full-time.

Also in ten years from now, I hope to have started my family. In college, it is far too easy to be a workaholic, and I learned that making friends and caring about others can help divide up my life in a healthy balance. It's important to live and work for others, not just yourself. There are only twenty-four hours in a day, and it's easy to forget that I'll only be working for less than half of that time. I expect to be building the other half of my life at home with a family, house, and hobbies like making music. My time in college taught me to be proactive in achieving a balance between work and life.