Abby Awad

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Intro to Honors

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A significant revelation that has occurred since I started at the University of Cincinnati was the ultimate feeling of belonging and comfort. As I’ve previously mentioned throughout this portfolio and through various assignments, I was terrified of starting college. The large campus and difficult classes didn’t scare me, nor did the added independence. Instead, I was worried about losing the friends I had grown up with and not being able to make new ones. Fortunately enough, over the course of my first few weeks at college, I was overcome with this sense of serene belonging, like I was meant to be a bearcat. That feeling was exactly the boost I needed and made waking up for class each morning enjoyable…or as enjoyable as waking up to go to school can be. Now, I’m able to combat any negative feelings I have about college with the strong sense of belonging.

This revelation was significant to me because before I felt this way, my insecurities and worries about college life were holding me back. I clung so tightly to my friends from high school and rejected any opportunity I had that I thought would drive me away from them. For example, one of the reasons I decided against joining Greek life was that almost none of my high school friends were doing it and I didn’t want to be taken away from them. Additionally, I often made excuses to turn down opportunities to spend time with and make friends with people I had recently met in order to spend more time with my high school friends. That’s not to say that there’s anything wrong with spending time with old friends, but there is a lot wrong with preventing myself from making new ones.

To represent this revelation, I decided to write a poem inspired by Dr. Seuss. This summer, I received a greeting card in the mail from an out of town friend, wishing me luck in college. The card was Dr. Seuss themed, with “Oh, The Places You’ll Go!” sprawled across the front, a homage to his book of the same name. Inspired by the send-off, the eighteen line poem I wrote reveals my feelings on the beginning of the school year and how those feelings were transformed over the first few weeks.