

Here is the sample essay used for the DVD.

From Muriel Harris'. *Teaching One-to-One: The Writing Conference*. Urbana, IL: NCTE, 1986.

179-81. (used by permission from NCTE).

Everybody hears it at some time in their life. It is an old saying and it goes something like this; you do not realize how good you have it until you do not have it anymore. This word good, can mean a number of things. It can mean a feeling, a compliment or how well off you are. When you leave home there are a number of things you loose. You loose the security of people taking care of you and the familiar group that you always hung around with. Besides from loosing security, you leave the familiar surroundings of home to move into a dorm room.

Boy, dorm life. I remember the dreams that I had. The adventure of living on my own. Well, almost on my own. I got the roommate everyone warns you of. Actually, she is not half bad as they said she would be. Besides getting a roommate, the College makes it a point to tell you that group living can add a significant dimension to your total educational experience. Not only does it add dimension to your educational experience but the dorm is suppose to be your home away from home. I tend to wonder about this statement. Being a new student away from home for more than a week I tended to notice the things I no longer have.

Being on your own is one trait you develop at college. There is no more of mom to pick up after me. To buy my shampoo or to wash my clothes. I get to make my own decisions and decide how active I am going to be. Making my own decisions is not always true. The dorms have rules that we must live with. Rules are great for the consideration of others but if we are adults then some of these rules need to be changed or slightly altered.

A rule that I have a hard time adjusting to has been the rule of no warm blooded pets. According to the Board of Health rules, pets of these types are problems for sanitation. A lot of my friends and I find this funny. If they are sanitation problems than our houses and many others are breaking sanitation rules. I had always wondered why the College did not have at least one dorm pet owners. In my opinion, if pet owners could bring their pets, some of the pressure of the day would be gone. It is proven that if you have something worry about you tend to forget or to put at ease the problem of the day. I also think that it would be easier to leave for college if the student did not leave their pet behind. That cute little, pudgy face surrounded by a ball of fur that would always come up to me and lay on my lap whether I wanted it to or not. So having at least one dorm for pet owners could make it home for them without being inconsiderate of others.

Being at college can be a new experience and teach you how to be on your own but living in a dorm does not always feel like home. I think that if students are allowed to brings their pets and have the enjoyment of candles can make them feel a little more at home. After all the parents are paying for their best education and experience for their children and the child should be happy.