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## Self Reflection Essay

From Day 1, I knew I would be a Communication and Media Studies major, at St. Norbert College. As of this writing, commencement for graduation is around three months away, which is the perfect time to reflect on my experiences and knowledge gained in the last four years of my life as a student. This essay will focus on describing what it means to be a Communication and Media Studies student, my aspirations after graduation in May, and how my experiences gained outside of the classroom have helped me get started in pursuing those goals and aspirations.

Being a Communication and Media studies student means learning about how people use media and how that has changed over the course of history. At St. Norbert College specifically, it means being part of a program tailored to expose students to all aspects of media by outlining the history of different mediums like radio, television, and social media and how they grew to their prominence in our society. In my time as a student of this major, I have learned different methods of research in communication and applied those to studies of the effects of media that have been done, as well as conducting a study of my own on media, specifically with podcasts. What I have learned through my studies in this field has impacted my career and professional skills with methods and understandings of how to effectively communicate. As mentioned, I have been able to put together a study on podcasts and researching the topic as well as getting feedback and understanding from other peers helped me evolve my personal podcast and hosting abilities. Another class that I have taken that has directly impacted my professional traits is Business and Professional Speaking, which gave me opportunities to speak in front of a group of people, a skill that is never truly done evolving. More specifically on what I have learned in this field

includes scholarly terms, techniques, and theories like narrowcasting and Cultivation Theory, or spiral of silence.

Following graduation, I will pursue a career in sports broadcasting, with a particular preference of being a play-by-play broadcaster for either football or baseball. However, there are many other ways to get into sports broadcasting that I have gained experience in and have enjoyed doing like public address announcing or sports-talk radio or podcasting. I know there are other ways that I am not very interested in like sports anchoring or journalism but those have never really enticed me. Outside experiences away from the classroom have bolstered my resume and have helped me advance my learning. In the last four years of my life, I have worked as the Vice-President of the campus radio station, SNC Radio, where I also got the start on my talk-show style podcast, The Tony G Show. I have also interned at Cumulus Media in Green Bay which has turned into a part-time job working with the local sports-talk radio station, The Fan WDUZ, as a producer. Also in the past four year, I have become a sports-broadcaster or public address announcer for many of the different athletics programs of St. Norbert College. Within the last year or so, I have become the public address announcer for The Green Bay Booyah, now Green Bay Rockers of the Northwoods League Inc. As for experiences outside of sports-broadcasting that have worked to deepen my understanding of Communication and Media Studies, I have also interned at The Automobile Gallery working at the front desk which has helped my customer relations skill set.

Being a Communication and Media Studies student means understanding how people use media and how that has changed over time. I can now advance my career in sports broadcasting with the understanding and knowledge gained from being a student, as well as experiences

outside of the classroom. Thanks to St. Norbert College and the Communication department, I feel I have what I need to reach my potential in my desired career.