My Strategy for College Success

Student Name

Columbia Southern University
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Entering college is a huge goal for me to take on. This paper tells what I hope to accomplish by attaining my degree and explains my motivation for enrolling at Columbia Southern University. By writing out my plan for accomplishing my degree, I hope to make the plan more solid and help me stay focused on my goal.

Career Goals

I have always wanted to be a firefighter, ever since I was four years old. I used to hang out at the local fire station after my first grade class visited there. The firefighters showed me their equipment and uniforms. When the alarm went off it was so exciting I could hardly stand it. I wanted to get on the truck and go with them. When I graduated from high school I went straight to the fire station to apply for firefighter school. Now, I have found out that I can get a promotion if I get a college degree. The guys I work with told me they went to CSU and worked on their degrees online. That fits my schedule because I can work on the classes while I am at the fire house.

My goal is to get a Bachelor of Science in Fire Science at CSU in two years. When I have that degree I will be eligible for a promotion at work. I expect two benefits from the promotion: more respect from by coworkers, and an increase in pay. With the extra pay I will be able to afford the extra expenses that my family will have, such as my daughter's private lessons in gymnastics which is expensive and a car for her to get to her lessons. Not only will the degree lead to promotion, the courses I take a CSU will increase my expertise in the field. I plan to take FIR 2301 Principles of Fire and Emergency Services, FIR 3301 Fire Behavior and Combustion, and FIR 3303 Fire Prevention. John Smith (2014) in the article Fire Prevention states “the primary purpose of fire prevention is to save lives and protect property” (p. 5). He lists tips for
preventing home fires. The article gave me some new ideas I can use in training sessions with school children, including my own. I am excited to apply the information I learn from coursework and research in my daily work.

In the end, I expect to have more respect for myself for accomplishing this degree and I expect my family will see the benefits of going to school.

(Time Management Techniques

In order to be successful in my college courses I will need to make sure I find a quiet place to do the readings and assignments. In the past I have done reading at the fire house while other noises were in the background because I wanted to know what was going on. I have noticed that I do not always remember what I read and I think background noise may be the reason. I did not learn what I was reading because I was too distracted to actually learn it and get it into my memory.

In order to make my study time more productive I need to manage my time. I have always found a few hours during the week to do personal reading, so I will replace that time with course study time. I will set a specific course study schedule that includes time to read, complete the quiz and finish other assignments. I plan to post my study schedule on the refrigerator for the family to see. I hope this plan will allow me to avoid studying at the fire house where distractions keep me from focusing on the coursework.

I will use the home computer before the kids get home. They go to after school activities that keep them busy. If I get my course work done before they get home, then my course work will not encroach on my family time. My wife is supportive and willing to take the kids to their
activities to give me time to do course work at home. It is important to me to use my time wisely to accomplish my personal and educational goals.

**Study Methods for Academic Success**

In this section describe your learning styles and/or your learning preferences and explain the study methods you will use. Be sure to use a paraphrased statement from the textbook and the in text citation in APA format.

**Summary**

In this section you will summarize your entire paper, stating what you plan to do and how you will do it. It should be about two paragraphs and 150 words. Be sure to refer back to what you said in your introduction. Insert a page break so that the next section starts at the top of a new page.

*(When you finish your conclusion or summary, insert a page break. This will start the next section on a new page.)*
References

(Note: That is correct, no bold face for the heading References. You will need to change your left side formatting here. Keep the double spacing. The first line of a reference should be flush left and indent only the lines after the first line of a reference—this is called a hanging indentation.)

