

They say experience comes with age, and in our case it is true. Our life lessons allow us to view our continuing education in a more mature light. Because of our age and experiences outside of school, we take our education very seriously.

First off, we are all paying for school out of pocket without the benefit of loans or grants. This expense cuts into our budgets for fun activities, things we may want to buy or get, and even forces us to scale back on the things we need.

In addition, many other aspects of our lives are sacrificed. We have to work at our jobs longer to pay for school, or adjust hours to fit around class times. We also have to try to fit in time with our families and the recreational activities we love around classes and study time. In other instances we have to forgo some of these activities all together.

We all feel that at this point in our lives not having a degree makes us feel like a part of us is missing. Many of our friends have degrees, and we face many blocks in our careers because of our lack. We often come across ads for jobs we'd love to get, but are passed over in favor of degree bearing candidates.

Because of all this, we feel we put a different, perhaps greater value on our education than someone who may not have faced these consequences yet. Balancing our professional and personal lives around school is something we are willing to do to further our long term goals.