Amiya Green

Ms. Champagne

Math 1111

23 November 2017

Writing Assignment

People start school with little to no knowledge about math, science, social studies, reading or writing depending on how they were raised. Not one kindergartener knew about linear equations or horizontal asymptotes. Many college students do not even know what that is. One question that has been asked multiple times by millions of people has been: “How are these concepts going to help us when we grow older and get into our careers?” This question is irrelevant to a person going to college to become a teacher or a scientist, but what about a student becoming a doctor or a lawyer? As hard as it may be to believe, math is used throughout every aspect of every day. Whether in a job, on television, at home, or in a newspaper, math can be applied in multiple ways.

The most common math I have seen being used in everyday life is with shopping. Whether it is shopping for groceries, clothes, furniture, or gifts; shopping involves prices which means money, clearance, and competition. The types of math that deals with shopping are linear equations and general word problems. For those people who do not know what a linear equation is, a linear equation is an equation between two variables that gives a straight line when plotted on a graph. In terms of no graph, a linear equation is an algebraic equation in which each term is either a constant or the product of a constant and a single variable. General word problems are self-explanatory so there is no need to go into detail about what they are.

When shopping for groceries on sale or clothes on clearance, you must know your math. Why you may ask? Well, sales and clearances involve percentages and if you do not know how to calculate the percentage from the regular price then you may have a problem on your hands. Say for instance that you are looking for some shoes to wear to a wedding and you see that some ruby red pumps are on sale for 40% off the original price of $56.97. You need to know that the sale price of 40% off the $56.97 ruby red pumps are $22.79. You should be able to figure out the sale price by multiplying the original price by the percentage. Sometimes they just give a paper with the sales price on there, but either way it is still good to know it yourself.

There once was a time when a store would lower the price of a grocery item if you showed them another store’s price for that same item. This is what is called competitive pricing or competitive shopping. A more by-the-book definition would be a method of setting the price of a product or service based on what the competition is charging. It is used more often by businesses selling similar products, since services can vary from business to business. Linear equations come in handy with this because who does not love getting more for their money. It teaches you to watch your money because sometimes people and/or machines make mistakes. It also teaches you how to shop for sales, save your money, and not overpay for items you could have gotten for a lower price.

As you can tell, complicated and not so complicated math is used every day without you even thinking about it. Sooner or later it is going to be so natural to you that when someone asks you what is 35% of $29.99, you can say $10.50 without hesitation. Math is as difficult as you make it. Even though multiple concepts of math that you have learned may or may not be necessary in the long run, it is still a great idea to know the rules and be prepared in any given situation.