Briana Carter

Professor Tanya Champagne

11/21/17

Essay

College Algebra in my Everyday Life!

Even if you don’t realize it, we use math in our everyday lives. When you go shopping you use math. When you’re simply fixing a meal at home or pouring yourself something to drink you’re using math. Math and science play a big role in everything we do. Thinking about real life situations makes math a little easier. It helps you understand the concepts. We have to make decisions every day. When you wake up, you have to decide if you want to go to class or stay in the bed. Decision making includes graphing and weighing out options in your head. Should I get this dress or that one? Are these shoes too big? Should I park in this parking spot or the next? How far do I have to throw the ball to get it in the hoop? When cutting a pizza or cake, you have to determine how many slices to cut based on the number of people you’re feeding. You need to know how far to travel. If you were traveling from Georgia to Texas, you would need to figure out how many miles it takes, how long is the drive or flight, and how much gas you will use. Whether you realize or not, formulas are a part of our everyday lives. Even how many steps you take walking to the bathroom in the morning is a part of math.

The first lesson was about using calculators. Everybody has used a calculator at some point in their life. I use a calculator for many reasons. I have used a calculator for my classwork and taking tests. I use a calculator every time I go to the store. If I see a shirt and it’s on sale but the original price is thirty-five dollars and its twenty percent off then I would have to use my calculator to determine the sale price. When I go to the grocery store, I use my calculator to calculate my total so I won’t go over the set amount I intended to spend on groceries. Before I get my check from my job, I calculate how much it will be after taxes. A calculator is very important in our everyday life and if I didn’t have one then it would be hard for me to calculate most things either on paper or in my head.

The distance formula, midpoint, and linear equations are used a lot. I have used the distance formula to determine how far to go. I can use traveling from Albany to Atlanta as an example. I have to check how many miles is between the two cities. I need to know how long will it take me to get there. I also need to know how much gas I need and how many times I need to fill up the car. Linear equations can be used to calculate how much gas and another example would be filling up a bucket. Or if I was to go meet somebody and we were trying to meet halfway then I would need to know the midpoint so that it will be fair for the both of us. I’ve noticed that in tennis you have to know the midpoint of the court so the net will be directly in the middle. Playing basketball and baseball is an example of the distance formula. When shooting the basketball in the hoop, I would need to know the distance from the basketball goal to wherever I’m standing. This helps with getting the basketball into the goal. I don’t want to be too close to the goal and I also don’t want to be too far from the goal because the purpose is to get the ball in the goal.

This leads me to talking about parabolas, quadratic functions, graphing, and absolute value. I have realized that parabolas are just about everywhere in the world. A bridge, valley, rainbow, even fireworks are all parabolas. I’ve used graphing a lot of times in my life. Graphing can help you make decisions. It helps you weigh out your options. An example of graphing in my life is my social media. If you take a circle graph and divide it into sections. You have the percentage of people you personally know, the percentage of complete strangers, and the percentage of people you only know from social media.

In conclusion, as I stated before, math is definitely a part of my everyday life. No matter where I go, I will either use or see math in some type of way. I do calculations just about every day. If I was a football player then you have to calculate how far to throw the ball, if I was pouring something to drink then I would need to know how much liquid can fit in that cup, when I’m shopping I need to know what I can afford and how much is the item if its on sale, when traveling I need to calculate the distance, calculating my grades or attendance, etc. It’s so many ways math can be used to make things easier in life. Math is very relevant in my everyday life. This essay has helped me understand how important learning math is and how often I use it.