Author: Cordale Scott

Title: What motivates students to be successful in college and in life?

About the Author: My name is Cordale Scott and I play football for the U of I. This is my first year attending the university and I’m doing a research project on what motivates college student to want be successful in college and in life. To find information on my research project, I observed a big party weekend on the U of I campus called cotton club. This is the weekend when there are a lot of things going on around campus. There events such as fashion show, talent show, and lots of party’s that was going on. I was observing the way people interacted with each other. I also interviewed one of my teammates and asked him general question about his life.

Abstract: While during this research project I also included some of my own personal experiences. In this research project I’m trying to find out what’s needed in a person life to be successful. While doing this research I realize that there are a of lot things that take factor in your life in order for you to be successful. What is success the dictionary definition, of success is. Success is the accomplishment of an aim or purpose. The key word in that definition is purpose. I feel that everybody needs a certain purpose of goal in life. You don’t have to be wealthy to consider yourself successful. You have to be stable in your life and know what you want out of life and making a positive impact on society. Doing this research made me look at life people in a different way. Doing the research gave me a better understanding on why people act certain because each person had different things in certain in their life and that causes them to act a certain way. It also gave me a better understanding on what can help a person become successful in life.

Question:
In my research paper, I would like to explore the topic of how the environment that a student grew up in affects their success in college. In my research, I will be asking numerous questions including

- How the household (single parent or both parents) affects the students?
- Did environment have an impact on getting involved in extracurricular activities?
- Did environment have an impact on deciding major?
- What type of students do they hang out with?

After watching the movie Do the Right Thing, I decided to choose this topic for my paper because it targeted many of the views of racial topics. Also, in a few of my classes in college, such as my Social Work 200 class, I am the only African American male. This also motivated me to find out why this is when the African American population at U of I is.

For my research, I will be interviewing some of my fellow teammates that grew up in the inner city and the suburbs, both white and black. Also, I will interview some of my classmates. I will also be observing how white and blacks interact with each other on campus such as school functions like the fashion show and dances. I will also observe if people who grew up in similar environments seem more comfortable with each other than someone
During Cotton Club weekend, I observed how different individuals throughout my team interacted around their social atmospheres. They immediately gravitated towards the groups of people that were most similar to them. My assumption for this behavior was because they felt more comfortable around people that are like them.

Cotton Club is a weekend in February that is full of parties held throughout the campus at bars, clubs and gymnasiums. Most of my teammates attended the parties and I noticed how we all separated once we got to the party. At first, I noticed that my team split up into the places we were from. The D.C. boys were together and the Chicago people were in a pack. There was Cleveland, Florida, and East. St. Louis groups as well. While there was no animosity towards one group to another, it seemed as though once you were with your group, you were not apart of the football team. We stayed close to each other though we were not all together. This party consisted mostly of African Americans.

The next party we went to was more of a mixed crowd. Though I walked in with teammates that were white and black, separation happened
again once we walked into the party. Instead of splitting up by where you were from, the team divided by color. The blacks were together and then the white teammates hung together. We mixed sporadically throughout the party but we were never a team.

My biggest observation that I feel was the most important to my paper is when we went to the party that consisted of college students and people from the town. This was the only party that we were a team at. We stuck together throughout the entire party. We made sure that everyone was together and safe. I believe we did this because we were around people that were unfamiliar to us. Since we knew each other we felt more in our comfort zone, just like when we split into groups by where we were from and race.

I feel that this observation is important to my paper because it shows how we interact with people from different social areas of life. Also, I feel that this is important to my topic because I, along with my teammates, didn’t associate with the people that were at the parties that were not in school. I think that is was a self conscious act. The people that are at parties who do not attend school usually bring trouble with them. Us not associating ourselves with them shows that we are trying to stay out of activities that could possibly be detrimental to our present and future success.

This part will fit into my larger project because it will show how people interact when they are in a different setting from what they are used to. It shows how they still socialize with people that are most similar to their surrounding from where they grew up more than those that are not familiar to
The reason for the interview was to get general information about my team Raheem Iskeem. I want to compare the intercity black teens like myself to suburb teens like Raheem which is from Flossmoor, Illinois where there a mixture of whit and black. I want did you environment affect the you lived and did it shape you as a person that you are today. I also wanted to know how much you’re your family and your life back home affects you in college. This reason why I pick this certain person was because I felt that I would give me a great interview. I knew he would supply with a lot of information to talk about because of his background.

As I started my interview I went to a quiet lounge in the stadium where it was quiet and I sat across from Raheem to make him feel more comfortable at first I thought it was going to be awkward because was teammates and I was asking him some personal question about his life. The interview went good over all. Raheem put a lot of into his question he got very in depth with each question. Raheem was a very well rounded young man it seems like he has a good head on his shoulders. Raheem was raised by both parents but in different homes his mom and dad got a divorce when he
was 3 years old. He stayed with his mom until the 8th and then move with his
dad for his for all four year while he was in high school. Raheem played
basketball and football all fours years in high school. His parents didn’t really
support him in his sports they focus more on his academics. He looks towards
his brother and sister which play in the WNBA for the support with his sports.
His father is very successful in life he owns his own real state company.
Raheem didn’t comunicate like Raheem think they should have, so he looked
up to his brother as a positive the male role model in his life. Raheem said he
always knew that he was going to college. He said that he didn’t have any
other choice but to go to college because all his brother and sister went to
college. What motivates Raheem to be successful in college is because he
doesn’t want to have struggled like is parents did economically. His parents
came to America from Africa at the age 18 (Mom) and 19 (Dad) with nothing
and they struggle at first to provide for their family but now his mom owns
Grocery store which raheem plans to expand world wide once he is done
with his career in the NFL and dad owns a real state company.

When Raheem first arrived at college he thought it was going be
easier than high school. He thought it was going tutor to help with all his work
and every class and he thought it was going party’s and light nights with
girls every night, but his dreams was destroy his for week here try to manage
school and football and his social life at once. Now that he has two semesters
under his belt he feels more comfortable. To make him stay more stable he
spend time with he girl friend and talks to his brother and sister everyday he
always checking on the family back home. He says that makes him feel more
at home even through in school away from home. When raheem is school is hangs out with mostly all football players. Raheem says he is still trying to find who his real friends on the team are. Just like other college freshman raheem is dealing with trust issue with new friends. Raheem says he feels more comfortable with dealing with his friends back home. His friends back home do not play any sport, but they are in college “trying to be productive”. Raheem feels that he is living double life when he is in school and back home. He acts a certain way when around his friends in school and a different way when he with his friends back home. Raheem say the reason for that is because he is dealing with to different types of crowd. Raheem he is hanging out with his friends is more of leader than a follower. Raheem is not easily influence when is comes to his friends telling him to do something. Raheem said the only time he is influenced by one of his friends is when its comes to dressing out public. He always wants to stand out and look different from others. Raheem feels that although he hangs out with a lot of athletes that he can adapt to any type environment just because of the environment that he was raised in.

My interview was to see what motivates black teens from different geographic background to be success in college and why they act, dress and talk so differently. I learned that its just not your environment that affect the way think. Your family has a major affect on the way you act and the person you become in the future. I also realize that although some people my have it better economically they can be going through the same problems emotionally as some one less wealthily. For example am from the intercity in Cleveland,
Ohio. I was raised by a single mother but I knew had a relationship with my father but we didn’t communicate good, so I lean on my uncle for a male role model just like raheem did with his brother. Although you are from different parts of the world and different family backgrounds you still sometime deal with the same problems.

Cordale Scott
Rhett 102
March 19, 2009
Eileen Lagman

Interview Question

• Where are you from? City or Suburb?
• What high school did you go to?
• What is your family expectation of you in college?
• What motivated you to get serious about college?
• What was your expectations of college before you arrived at the U of I
• Has it changed since you got here?
• Who do you hang out with or affiliate yourself with at U of I What about when you go home is it same type of people?
• How do the people around you influence the way you act, dress, talk or the things you do?
• Do you think you change in different environments? Among different people?

Discuss: Cordale Scott
Rhett 102
April 16, 2009
Eileen Lagman

What motivates students to be successful in college and in life?

An Introduction
My name is Cordale Scott and I play football for the U of I. This is my first year attending the university and I’m doing a research project on what motivates college student to want be successful in college and in life. To find information on my research project, I observed a big party weekend on the U of I campus called cotton club. This is the weekend when there are a lot of things going on around campus. There events such as fashion show, talent show, and lots of party’s that was going on. I was observing the way people interacted with each other. I also interviewed one of my teammates and asked him general question about his life.

While during this research project I also included some of my own personal experiences. In this research project I’m trying to find out what’s needed in a person life to be successful. While doing this research I realize that there are a of lot things that take factor in your life in order for you to be successful. What is success the dictionary definition, of success is. Success is the accomplishment of an aim or purpose. The key word in that definition is purpose. I feel that everybody needs a certain purpose of goal in life. You don’t have to be wealthy to consider yourself successful. You have to be stable in your life and know what you want out of life and making a positive impact on society. Doing this research made me look at life people in a different way. Doing the research gave me a better understanding on why people act certain because each person had different things in certain in their life and that causes them to act a certain way. It also gave me a better understanding on what can help a person become successful in life.

The process
While doing this research I conducted great interviews with one of my fellow that was from a different geographic background as me. His name Raheem Iskeem he was born in the suburbs of Chicago. His parents immigrate to the United States from Africa. He has a sister that plays in the WNBA. Rhaeem said that there more than one thing motivated him to be successful in life. He stated that it wasn’t just his family and it was his friends, environment, and geographic background. I will talk about these different things that influence Raheem in his life in my research paper and I will also ask general question about what had major influence on his life for him to become a successful person. The answer that stuck out the most to me was when he said his environment, family, friends, and their morals. I found that very interesting that he had more than one thing that was influential to him in life so I will focus on those topics more in the paper.

While doing this interview I realize what a major change that incoming freshman goes through during their first year in college. While doing this research project I also observe myself and realize how much of transformation I was making since I’ve been going in college. I notice myself meeting new people and making new friends and trying and doing a lot different things and making life changing decision. As I interview Raheem I notice that I was the only person going through the same problems. But he deals with his problems different from me. We both come from different family background and geographic places. My research project will reveal why we handle are problems a different and why we both are still successful although different type of environment.
Environment

Raheem was raised in the suburbs of Chicago he attend a diverse high school he interacted with different racial group. The neighborhood that he lives in was mainly middle class white and black people. By Raheem living in a diverse society it prepare him for the college he was able to interact with different ethic groups. So when he arrived to college it was a shocker to see Whites, Black and Asian all in the same class room and stay in the same dorm. Growing up in a diverse community prepares you not just for college life but also for the real world. The society is having different race groups entering the United States and growing up in a diverse community well prepare you for that.

My situation is a lot different from Raheem. I was raised in the intercity of Cleveland, Ohio. I attend an all black high school that was surrounded by high crime rate and heavy drug activity. I really didn’t feel comfortable interacting with people from different background as mines. I feel that living in this type of environment really didn’t prepare me for the college life or dealing with people with people form different culture backgrounds. I do feel that it motivated me to what succeed and overcome my environment and not live by the stats quo of intercity black males. With me and raheem coming from two different community backgrounds we both still have motivation to become successful. Raheem had the pressure from of all the positive people surrounding him in his family and in his community to be successful failure is not at choice in his life. There is always motivation in life it just different type motivation such as self motivation and peers motivation.
Either you are trying to compete to better then your peers or your peers are encouraging you to be successful.

**Friends**

In high school Raheem was what you would call the normal jock. He didn’t hang out with people that didn’t have the same goals in life as him. Such as wanting to further their education or just doing positive things with their life. Raheem was so used to be around positive people. He kept his friends circle very small. My circle of friends was a lot bigger than Raheem I didn’t discriminate against anybody I hang out with even if they wasn’t doing right with their life. I didn’t feel that they decision of what they wanted to do with they had any affect on my life. All of my friends did not have positive things going for them in life. Some of my friends weren’t pursuing their education on to college and there were some of my friends that weren’t going to graduate from high school. Some of my friends were involved in the street. The type of friends that raheem and I hang out with is totally different.

We use are friends energy different I motivate myself off of my friends I use what they do in life to keep myself humble and to know if I don’t keep my head on straight that I could end up like them. I don’t feel that hanging with these different types of people had a bad influence on my life. I think it just help me see the different views of life and our society. Raheem uses his friend to feed off of their energy and to keep him on the right path. Raheem figures if he surrounds himself positive around people that would motivated him to keep his head on straight and reach his goal in life. He just
looks at life like a competition he doesn’t want anybody to do better than him in life so if his friend is making good grades in college. That motivates him to keep his grades because his doesn’t want his friend to out shine him in school. Raheem and I have good methods to keep our life on the right path.

Now that Raheem has arrived in college his group of friends has gotten bigger. But they are still generated on things he do he still hang with athletes, but only athletes that are doing positive things in life. Since I have arrived in college I still haven’t establish what type of people that I hang out with. I spend a lot of my time alone but when I do go out to have fun I hang with a lot of my black teammates. I still find myself being uncomfortable trying to interact with different people from different backgrounds. Now that I’m in college I realize that it is good to have a social life and the people that you hang around with can have a positive or negative effect on you and you also can learn from each other. I am hurting my college experiences by not interacting with different type of people. I noticed that the my friends and my environment has influence the way I act although it hasn’t effect me in negative way, but certain thing that I experiences in my neighborhood it hold me back to moving from the old me and experiencing new things and explore my knew atmosphere.

Analyzing me and raheem friendship situation I have come to noticed that although me and his situation are different. We both still have pressure when it comes to the people that we affiliate oursevles with. Raheem have the
pressure of being successful because he is surrounded around so many successful young adults. I have the pressure of getting looked at as being different because I do want to be successful in life. The people you affiliate yourself can either have a positive or negative influence on your life it just how much influence you let your friends have you as person.

Observation

During my research paper I observe a big party weekend on the U of I campus its cotton club weekend. During cotton club weekend, I observed how different individuals throughout my team interacted around their social atmospheres. They immediately gravitated towards the groups of the people that were most similar to them. My assumption for this behavior was because they felt more comfortable around people that are like them. Most of teammates attend the party and I noticed how we all separated once we got to the party. At first, I noticed that my team split up into the places we were from. The D.C. boys were together and the Chicago people were in a pack. There was Cleveland, Florida, and the East St. Louis group as well. The group was broken up into geographic groups. While there was no animosity towards one group to another, it seemed as though once you were with the group, your were not a part of the football team. We stayed close to each other though we were not all together. This party consisted mostly of African Americans.

I feel that this observation is important to my research because it shows how we as society interact with people from different social areas of life. But it also show how people still dealing with the issues of interacting with different people socially such as myself the people that hung
out with was people that reminded me of my friends back home. Although every body wasn’t from the same place they still put themselves in groups from geographic backgrounds. This show that people are not really interacting with different type of people. The groups were dividing into two different groups the south and the north. So you still are dealing with same type people with same beliefs and same outlooks on life. Although they might not be from the exact same place you still come from the same geographic background. So you like the same music you dress a certain way just from geographic backgrounds and all that comes into play when you talking about going out and going to a party. By putting yourself in certain social group you identify yourself as being with that group and people will look at you a certain way depending on the identity of the group. When you put yourself in a certain social there are things that influence you to be in that group such us what are their beliefs they way the carry themselves or they way the interact with different people. I feel that you have to know what type of person you are before you can put yourself in a certain social group. The people you hang out with have major affect on your life just as much as you have on your own life. Your social life isn’t the only thing that has major affect on your life you family also can influence your life in a positive or negative way.

Family

Going back into my interview Raheem family situation was little awkward he was raised in two different homes one was his mother house and the other was his father house. Raheem live with his mother all the way until his was in junior high school. Then he moves with his father for the rest of his
life. Raheem family situation was different for the usual black kid growing up in America society. Raheem had balanced share of influence from both parents. Raheem said that his family had a major impact on his life. Raheem parents move to the united from Africa and now they are very success people in the suburbs of Chicago. His moms own her own grocery store and his father is a real estate salesman. Raheem stated that is what influences him to want to be successful in life because he sees what hard work can get you. Raheem also stated that his brother influence him the most to be successful in college and in life. Raheem said that his brother papered him for college by telling him what to expect when he get there. I research how present students can influence a future student experience on what they tell what they should expect in college by telling them stories about their pervious experiences. There was an article from ideals that I looked up. The article was talking about how the author gave a survey asking some future college student how their outside influence affect their perception of their experiences going to college. The author survey showed how everybody was affected differently by what future college students told them.

Tying this into my research project this article shows how what other people tell you before you arrived in college can affect you experience either in a positive way or in a negative way. In Raheem casd it helps him in positive way because his brother told him that you will have to work hard in college. That help Raheem have they right attiude when he arrived in college because his brother told him what to expect. Raheem always knew that he was going to attend a college, because his parents didn’t accept anything less from
him. His brother was a positive role model for Raheem to look up too. He graduate from college, he has a great job and is keeping his life in the positive direction. Raheem has a perfect example to learn how he should pursue his life. Raheem always was expected to attend college because his family set a certain standard for him to meet and graduating from college was one of them.

My situation is a little different from Raheem. I was raised in a single parent home with mother. I was the only child for nine years. I had to become the positive role model for my younger sister. My father was in and out of my life. The only male figure I had to look up too was my uncle and he was young adult at the time, so there wasn’t a lot he could teach me because he was still learning and finding himself as well. My mother was the first to attend college in my family. I have always seen my mother struggle living from pay check to pay check just to provide for me. My mom always set the standard for me to attend college and take care of my family. Seeing my mother struggle is one of my motivations to be successful in life. There are certain motivations that people use to be successful. Me and Raheem uses are family to motivate us to make good grades in college and to make sure we make the right decision in life. Seeing what our parents went through keeps us rounded and influence us not to never fall, it also made us stronger because there were certain obstacle that we went through that prepare us for certain situation that we are faces now in college.

**Articles**

There was an article that I read called “The Stories we carry” that tied into my research. The article was talking about how some students do not
attend college because of their financial problems and it’s also talks about how some students use their financial problem to motivate themselves to succeed in college. The reason why I thought this article was so interesting is because I use my mom’s financial problems for motivations for me to succeed and get through each day in college. There was another article that ties into my research project it is called “Studies Examine Major on Influences on freshman’s Academic success”. The article covers a lot of what my research paper is about. It talks about how a college student’s family background and high school environment affects your grades and your social involvement in college. It also talks about how students that were the first in their families to attend college are affected differently from others that have the college history in their family. This article has a lot of statistic of how your environment and your family affect your college life. This article helps me explain why me and Raheem college experience is going different. Raheem has the college history in his family and I was the first male to attend college. Raheem experience seems more natural because he had family members tell how college well be and with me it feels like a dream everything is so new to me because I didn’t have anybody to tell what to expect when I came to college. This article show how your family has major affect on your experience in college.

**Conclusion**

There are a lot of teenagers that are not attending college I ask myself what the reason is for some teenager not wanting to attend college. The answer that I came up with was that they don’t anything that motivated of influence them to attend college. My research paper show thing that can
influence a person to go college and want to have a successful life. There were other research papers on the same topic but what makes minds different from others is that get more depth with what I think motivates students to be successful. I talk about your family background, environment, high school, and your friends. All things have an influence on you wither a positive or negative way. There are some situation when might not have a family or and friends but they would use that towards motivation from to be successful and establish their own life and start a family of their own. Being in college I noticed that I need some type of motivation of influence to keep going each day and I just look back at mother and think about how she struggling and that motivates me to keep pushing on in the right direction. There are so many obstacle that you are going to face in life and you some type of motivation in life. If you have nothing to motivate of influence you in life you won’t have a reason to keep pushing on with life. There are different types of motivation such as positive motivation or negative motivation but everybody uses their motivations different depending on the person situation.

**EUI Links:** Cordale Scott  
Rhet 102  
April 2, 2009  
Eileen lagman

Boatman, Brittany.” College life” or Something like It. *Ideals*. Ed  
Brittany talks about how other college students experience can
influence a future college student perception of college. Brittany gave a survey asking some future college student asking them how did their outside influences affect their perception of they was going to experience in college. Every student had a different story to tell about their outside influence. You could tell that it affected every person differently before they arrived to college each student felt they was more ready for college once they outside influence told what to expect. I feel that Brittany survey was successful because it showed a lot of different point of views of the different college students. I feel that it cover mostly every situation that you would come across in college.

This article will tie into my research project very well because in my interview with Raheem he talks about how his brother and his sister had an influence on what his perception of college was before he arrived and talks about how that perception has change just because of things that he has to go through in is everyday college life. The survey is also good for my research project because it gives me different point of views and compare and contrast between the different people and their perception and talk about why there perception was what there were. I will also talk about the other things that influenced their perception. This survey was very helpful.

Cordale Scott

Rhet 102

April, 2, 2008

Shemika first section was about how incoming freshman perceived college. She talks about how future college freshman think college will be like the movies they saw and they book the read. The second section was talks about how future college students will ask a college student about there college experiences and that will a perception on how they college going to be. The next section Miles talk about was how your parents give you advice before you go off to college and choice if you listen to them. In the last section Shemika talks about how when you go to college everybody make there own experienced from things they do and they people surround themselves around.

I can tie this article into my research report very well. This article covers the entire subject an incoming freshman is going through when they are getting ready to go to college. In my interview with Raheeme iskeem he talks about how his expectation of college changes because he thought it was going to be all fun and games. He didn’t think it was going to be that serious like it is. I think this article will help people understand my research project more.

After reading Ivanna article I found it very interesting that it tied into my research project so well. She talks about the different things that influence a college student before they actually arrived to college. Such as parents, friends, environment, books, and movies. She talks about the thoughts that runs through your mind before you arrived to college. She talks about the
finical problem that comes into play when you are going off to college. She talks about how your finical issue is one of your major deciding factors if person will attend college or not. Ivanna interviewed five people including her self. She talks about what were the deciding factors of these students to go to college and each one had a different story.

I will include this into my research project by talking about my deciding factors for me coming to college and I will also include Raheem reason for pursuing his college career. I will mostly likely interview one other person and talk about their deciding factors also. Then I would see how it ties into Ivanna project and see if we have similar responses then I will compare me and her papers and talk about differences and the similarities.

Cordale Scott

Rhet 102
April, 2, 2008

This article has a lot of facts in it that was one of the reasons why I chose this article. This article talks about how college students’ family background and high school environment affect your grades and your social involvement in college. It also talks about how students that were the first in their families to attend are affected differently from others that have the college history in their family. This article has a lot of statistics on how your environment and your family affect your college life.

This article covers a lot of what I’m talking about in my research project. In my project, I talk a lot about how your environment affects your college life and the way you approach college. The article by Schmidt gives me some strong facts that I can support my claims with. This article is strong and in depth with a lot of information that can help my research project.