

Picture yourself as a ten year old child sitting in the backseat of your mother's car. You're excited because it's a weekend to go camping with your Girl Scout, or Boy Scout Troop. On the way your mother decides to stop at a package store and buys a 24 pack of beer. She starts drinking it because she is stress out and cannot find the campgrounds. We are already really late and lost so we stop at another gas station and I get out to ask a police officer where to go. Then he asks me if he should tell my mom. I said no in fast and nervous way so he watched me go back to the car and then came over. I thought she was going to get caught but he wasn't suspicious of anything. We left and tried to find the campground but couldn't so I fell asleep. I woke up around 11:30pm to see flashing lights and lots of police and ambulances at an accident in front of us. My mom made an illegal U-turn and the police officer pulled her over. She drove right onto the green and was asked to get out of the car. I sat in the back and watched all the tests and then watched them put the handcuffs on her. I got out of the car crying and ran over to my mom. She was leaving but I still wanted something so I asked for the keys to open the trunk and get my stuffed dog Patches. Then they took her away and I waited with the police officer because they had to tow my mom's car. My dad and seven year old sister came and picked me up at the police station. We drove home in silence and when I got home I went to my room and cried myself to sleep. She was in jail for one year where my sister and I got to visit her. When she got out we went on a schedule of whose house we would be at. I had to be the strong one, especially for my sister. I went with the flow until I got out of high school. I still kept in contact with my mother until the end of August 2010 when she left me a drunken message saying I screwed over the whole family. I was fed up with her and have not talked to her since. I am still debating if this is an awful decision to make, but she made a decision that will always affect the rest of my life. My mother has had ample opportunities to get her life back in order but chooses not to.

Through all this happening I have seen the difficulties and challenges of life. The experience with my mom and desire to care for my sister has made me realize I enjoy helping others. My goal is to help as many people as possible and change the world. Three Rivers Community College can help me succeed

with these goals because the cost of schooling is reasonable. I'm going to school to become a nurse. Nurses help people every day. Studying Nursing, and then being able to practice it as a profession, will allow me to deepen my understanding of the human condition and therefore, be able to care/assist people. By coming to Community College my goals can still be fulfilled.

Governor Malloy is saying that Connecticut doesn't graduate enough college students and we take twice as long to graduate. With budget cuts not as many students will be able to afford to go to college. It will also take longer to graduate because we will have less staff members to have the amount of classes we need. With less staff fewer activities will happen at school because fewer clubs will be able to be run. Each club must have an adviser that will have the time and willingness to be involved. A budget cut effects not only the school members but also all the towns that the students come from. I don't qualify for financial aid and I am trying to stay debt free. If the school gets the budget cut that has been talked about then tuition will have to be increased by 15% to make up for the money lost. This will cause many difficulties and challenges to, not only me, but the communities that all the students are from. Community College teaches us what it's like to be a part of a community and therefore when we are a part of the adult world with jobs, lives, and children we will be able to come together with those who live around us and make a strong and safe community to thrive as people and individuals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rachel Batter". The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent loop in the "B" and a long tail on the "t".

Rachel Batter