My Reflection Paper

My time in college has been an interesting journey. I think to truly be able to reflect on my college career, I have to start at the beginning. I started taking college courses the fall after I graduated and I enjoyed it very much. My original major was Business Administration and Computer Information Systems at Amarillo College. Although I had considered universities such as West Texas A & M and Texas Tech, I never imagined that I could get into one of those institutions let alone be able to achieve anything there so I never even applied. This feeling is very common throughout my life, as I tended to have a fear of accomplishment and a fear of rejection. So if I don't start something, I can't complete it then I can't be given any positive, negative or constructive criticism. Nevertheless, I slowly found myself buying into higher and really might have had a little more success had I not tried to juggle to many things. I would wake up at 5:00 a.m. so I could open the store at my first job at 6:00 a.m., leave around 8 a.m. so I could go to class, get out of class around noon and head back to work so I could finish my shift. After I would get off, I would go home and change, then head on over to my other job from about 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. I would sprinkle in school somewhere in there. It's was around this time that I was in and out of school as work and social life began to take precedence. I never fully dropped out until I had started a new job that would later turn into a pseudo-career for me. I met my future wife, had my future son, and knew that I would have to let college go for the moment so I could go into management. Now, at the time I was still a business major so I thought this was a move that would come back and benefit me at a later date. So we move towns, my wife, my son and I and put college on the back burner for a bit. Over the next couple of years I saw a glimpse of what was to come. My fate without college had been presented to me and it was fine. It would have been a good life. It just would not have been good enough. I began going back to school, this time at Vernon College and came pretty close to completing a business administration program, or so I thought, until my work transferred me from Wichita Falls to Lubbock. Having been born and raised in Littlefield, TX and being very familiar to Lubbock, I saw this as an opportunity get out of management and go back to school. After stalling for two years, not having the confidence to jump in with both feet into either South Plains College or Texas Tech, we finally made the decision to move back

to Amarillo and go back to school. My first year back I attended Amarillo College once again, this time with a "do-over" kind of attitude. With the support of my wife and with the help of my mom and dad, I really bought into it this time. I decided that a business degree was not for me and changed my major to Mass Communications, specifically Advertising and Public Relations. It was at this time that I was in the middle of a PR campaign for my Intro to Public Relations class when I asked my brother to get me in touch with the program director for Amarillo College's FM90. I knew my brother was on the radio and liked to do it, so I made FM90 the center of my subject of my PR campaign. Both the program director and my brother invited me to be on the radio for pay over the Christmas break. I did it and found something in me that I didn't know existed. Soon my brother and I had our own show and he was teaching me how to produce content for the station. I also began writing for the school newspaper, The Ranger. After three short semesters, I graduated from Amarillo College and set my sights on WT. Without skipping a beat, I enrolled the very next semester and began to branch out as far as how active I was on campus. It started with KWTS and AD/PR society. Soon I was in NBS, WTTV, The Prairie and multiple teams on KWTS (morning show, production team, news team, sports team and music team.) I was taking classes that were allowing me to apply what I had learned at AC and the student body and faculty at WT were so welcoming and helpful. I look back at and realize that it has been yet another three short semesters until I graduate and realize that I have a very different outlook on college life than most of my classmates. I tested the waters and I know what is waiting for me outside the walls of the college experience. The interviews, the long hours, the workload, and everything you expect out of the "real world" is waiting just outside. I'll be back soon enough. Most people don't get to have a second chance at things and I was blessed enough to be one of the lucky few. As I reflect on my college career, I look at my portfolio and see so many of my accomplishments as a stepping-stone to what I will someday be doing. It is no longer a lack of confidence that binds me, but a surge of confidence that drives me. The thing I will take away from college is that it's never too late to achieve your goals. With a little direction and a lot of hard work, we can do whatever we want. And sometimes you get a "do-over."