

## Still Buffering 106: How to College Prep

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[theme music plays]

**Raleigh:**

Hello, and welcome to Still Buffering, a sisters' guide to teens through the ages. I am Raleigh Smirl.

**Sydnee:**

I'm Sydnee McElroy.

**Taylor:**

And I'm Taylor Smirl.

**Sydnee:**

Well, sisters, I'm sorry that our episode is late this week. It is my fault.

**Taylor:**

Well, that's—

**Sydnee:**

We'd like to start off with that.

**Raleigh:**

Eh, but you were sick. [laughs]

**Taylor:**

Only Raleigh's like, "Yes, yes, it was your fault. You should feel bad 'cause that was bad." [laughing]

**Sydnee:**

I was, I was. I was very sick. I'm on the mend. Everything is well. I mean, I hope.

**Raleigh:**

I'll forgive you.

**Sydnee:**

I trust modern medicine. It is improving. It is saving my life. [laughs] At least, it's saving my sinus.

**Rileigh:**

True.

**Taylor:**

It's good.

**Sydnee:**

So... But I am sorry. It is all my fault. I will tell you I have had... I guess, I've never had a sinus infection in my life is what I've learned.

**Rileigh:**

Now you have.

**Sydnee:**

Yes.

**Taylor:**

Is this only 'cause you can compare to the pain you're experiencing now?

**Sydnee:**

Yes. 'Cause I—

**Taylor:**

Okay.

**Sydnee:**

I mean, I've had like times where I'm like, "Oh, my sinuses feel congested." And I, like, use some Flonase or something, you know? And it gets better and then you're fine.

**Taylor:**

Mm-hmm. Hmm.

**Sydnee:**

I've never had like this. Like my eyeball's gonna pop out of my head.

**Taylor:**

Can that happen?

**Sydnee:**

Teeth are falling out.

**Taylor:**

Can that happen too!?

**Sydnee:**

Not from a sinus infection. Um—

**Raleigh:**

It sounds like there's a 'but' coming after that. [laughing]

**Taylor:**

Wait a minute! [laughing]

**Sydnee:**

I guess it depends on where. Like, if you're talking about a giant abscess that spreads to the right parts of f—... Like an orbital cellulitis and then abscess. It'd have to be a lot of pressure. I think we're just getting into crazy—

**Raleigh:**

Then your eyeball would just be like—

**Sydnee:**

... medical hypotheticals right now.

**Taylor:**

Man.

**Sydnee:**

I mean—

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

I'm not gonna say eyeball has never popped out of a head, but I'm also not gonna say that it's not, that it's common. [laughing]

**Taylor:**

I just... I've got awfully concerned with my health. That's just something I don't really pay attention to. But I would like to actively be aware of the diseases that might make my eyes pop out of my head 'cause I will—

**Raleigh:**

[laughs]

**Taylor:**

... avoid those. I will do... take precautions. Is there a, is there a flu shot, but for that? [laughing] I will get that shot.

**Sydnee:**

I wish. No. What I would say is this. It's... Like this time of year, everybody's got, like, some congestion.

**Raleigh:**

Everybody's always sick.

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

I've been sick constantly for the past month. [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

And, and, like, you know, I got a little bit of runny nose, but I feel fine otherwise. That's... Generally speaking, that's not a medical emergency. But you would know if this happened to you.

**Raleigh:**

If your eyeball was popping out of your head you would now.

**Taylor:**

Well, that's, that's... I would think so.

**Sydnee:**

You would know if you felt like this because, I mean, it really. I am... Never had pain like that. Oh, man.

**Taylor:**

Well, I'm sorry, Syd.

**Sydnee:**

I don't know. And I can only take Tylenol. I can't even take my trusty ibuprofen.

**Raleigh:**

'Cause of that baby.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

The baby.

**Sydnee:**

So, anyway, it's okay. All is well. I'm on the mend and I'm sorry we're so late.

**Taylor:**

Well—

**Raleigh:**

I guess it's fine. [sighs]

**Sydnee:**

[laughs] I think—

**Taylor:**

I'm just... Uh, you know, usually I really, really miss being able to be around you guys. Like, you know—

**Raleigh:**

[laughs]

**Taylor:**

But, man, you guys just go back and forth with these diseases. I'm like, "Oh, it's all right that this is a remote relationship for a little while." [laughs] Because I'll tell you what, I've got a big convention this weekend and I am terrified of everyone like with the littlest sniffle. Like, I've held it off. All of my friends have, have, have been taken down by some sort of disease in the past couple weeks. Like, just please, please let me get Ketchikan safe and, and not sick, please. Nobody touch me for the next five days.

**Sydnee:**

I understand. You know, I've been trying to think about it this way. So, when the baby comes next week, uh, she will be very small and vulnerable.

**Raleigh:**

Yes.

**Sydnee:**

As babies tend to be.

**Raleigh:**

As babies are. [laughing]

**Sydnee:**

And, uh, it is good if n— there is nobody around her who's sick that, that is—

**Taylor:**

Mm.

**Sydnee:**

... optimal. In fact, I will probably be pretty ruthless and say, "If you're sick, please stay away."

**Raleigh:**

From my baby.

**Sydnee:**

"Please, very kindly will you stay away from my baby." Um, so the... that's what I'm hoping we're getting it our out of systems now. [laughs] Just—

**Raleigh:**

So when the baby comes, we're all top physical condition.

**Sydnee:**

Mm. And, and our immune systems have, like, really built up a defense to everything you could get this year.

**Raleigh:**

[laughs]

**Taylor:**

Only let anybody communicate with your new baby via Skype for like the first six months of their life.

**Sydnee:**

Well, I'll tell ya—

**Raleigh:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

... with this flu season, uh, there's... I have... There is that temptation.

**Taylor:**

[laughs] Skype baby only.

**Raleigh:**

There is, there was a week where Sydnee had the flu. And then, you have the flu and then, like, everyone thought they were getting the flu, but we just got the flu shots. It was like we only got, like, half flu. And then Sydnee got a sinus infection. And now, I can only hear out of one of my ears. Everyone just kind of falling apart.

**Sydnee:**

Oh, man, I am... So everybody get your flu shots and take care of yourself. And wash your hands and stay home if you're sick. Don't give it to—

**Raleigh:**

Sydnee.

**Sydnee:**

I know.

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Don't go give it... I admit I actually missed two days of work.

**Raleigh:**

That's the most days of work you've ever missed.

**Sydnee:**

That was hu—That is giant for me. [laughs] That... If that, if that's not a marker of how sick I was. I missed two days of work. Well, one and a half, but still—

**Raleigh:**

Still.

**Sydnee:**

... one and a half. It was, yeah. That's a bad illness.

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Now in the... That has nothing to do with what we wanna talk about this week.

**Raleigh:**

I know.

**Sydnee:**

I just wanted to get my apology out there up front.

**Raleigh:**

For the world.

**Sydnee:**

Um, Raleigh, we are in the second half of your senior year of high school.

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

So—

**Raleigh:**

[singing]

**Sydnee:**

Exactly. The end is [laughing] quickly approaching. And—

**Raleigh:**



I have like three and a half months.

**Sydnee:**

And you kinda have to know, like, what happens next.

**Raleigh:**

This is true.

**Sydnee:**

And we've talked a little bit about college and that kind of thing before, but there are other things that you've been doing with your time, which I... We haven't talked a lot about before.

**Raleigh:**

This is also true.

**Sydnee:**

So do you want to talk about—

**Raleigh:**

You bring up a valid point—

**Taylor:**

[laughs]

**Raleigh:**

... sister.

**Taylor:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

So, what have you been into?

**Raleigh:**

Well, I ha— recently, uh, was accepted for an internship of an online college website where you write articles and produce videos all about, like, preparing for college and getting ready for college and what you need to do to be ready after high school for people who are freshman, sophomores, juniors, looking at preparing for college, so—

**Taylor:**

Well, congratulations.

**Raleigh:**

Well, thank you.

**Taylor:**

So that's cool.

**Raleigh:**

Thank you, sisters.

**Sydnee:**

Do you get money for this?

**Raleigh:**

No.

**Sydnee:**

Well, now—

**Raleigh:**

[laughs] Well, now, Sydnee... [laughing]

**Taylor:**

I think you're missing... Well, no, I was gonna say that's not what an internship is, but I guess now it's... There's was that big law—

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Taylor:**

... that went into effect where you have to pay interns in certain situations, which is nice.

**Raleigh:**

Well—

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

... I technically don't have to go into work anywhere. I work from my computer.

**Sydnee:**

Mm-hmm. All right.

**Raleigh:**

So, I don't think they have to pay me.

**Sydnee:**

Maybe. Is it all, like, it... What if you didn't turn anything?

**Raleigh:**

I... Like, I don't know what they could do to me.

**Sydnee:**

Okay, so maybe that's why.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

'Cause you're right, Tey, that, um, you know, there used to be a lot of what were called unpaid internships.

**Taylor:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

And, yeah, were really excuses to use young people who didn't have a lot of experience. Maybe had some education or a lot of education even, but not a lot of experience yet to just use them as free labor.

**Taylor:**

Hmm.

**Sydnee:**

On the promise that this will give you the experience you need to succeed.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Um, and, obviously, that's terrible.

**Raleigh:**

Well—

**Sydnee:**

If people are going to do work for you, they should be paid for that.

**Taylor:**

And that was... I feel like after art school, like, across like every sort of art profession that was like the entry level position, you know? Like if you couldn't support yourself somehow, uh, the only way to get into, uh, so many aspects of the art world was through an internship. So it's like... It was sort of a weird class control thing. 'Cause like, I guess, if you had a trust fund then you could sit in a gallery for free, you know? And then—

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Taylor:**

... eventually work your way up. But for those of us that didn't it's like, well, looks like the whole baseline is unpaid internships. I guess I'm gonna go work in a restaurant and I never stopped. [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

It's... No, it r—... Well, it really is unfair. That's a really ridiculous expectation. And I think about, like, comparatively I did an internship. I did a year of residency that is referred to as my intern year.

**Taylor:**

Right.

**Sydnee:**

And I got paid. I mean, yes, I learned a lot and I worked really hard hours and it was very difficult, but I got paid 'cause—

**Raleigh:**

[laughs]

**Taylor:**

It was a job.

**Sydnee:**

... 'cause I did work. I mean, I did things that people needed—

**Raleigh:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

... done that helped them generate income.

**Taylor:**

I—

**Sydnee:**

So that's a job. I got paid for it.

**Taylor:**

I'm just trying to think, like, the, the, the parallel is just so... 'Cause the other thing they loved to, like, fresh out of, uh, out of school artists is like, "Oh, well, we won't pay you for this, but it'll be good exposure." Are you gonna tell that to like a doctor? Like, [laughing] I'm not gonna pay you for doing this surgery, but it'll be really good exposure for you." Like, people will know that you removed this... What are... People remove spleens to get... That's a thing, right? [laughing]

**Sydnee:**

I mean, they can. Yeah.

**Taylor:**

Okay. Cool.

**Sydnee:**

They could. Yeah. You could remove a spleen.

**Raleigh:**

You could probably remove most things.

**Sydnee:**

I mean, I almost—

**Taylor:**

Well—

**Sydnee:**

... said spine and then I was like, "No, I can't stick to it." [laughing]

**Taylor:**

Spinectomy.

**Sydnee:**

You can remove anything. [laughing]

**Raleigh:**

I mean, what kind—

**Taylor:**

That sucks.

**Raleigh:**

... of effect it will have. That is a different question.

**Taylor:**

Oh, that was a scary statement there, Raleigh.

**Raleigh:**

Actually, you can remove anything from the human body.

**Sydnee:**

I mean, uh, how interested are you in the person being alive afterwards, I guess, [laughs] is the big issue.

**Raleigh:**

Now I've seen episodes of Grey's Anatomy where Dr. Derek Shepherd has removed parts of people's brains and they were totally fine.

**Sydnee:**

You can. You can remove parts of people's brains—

**Raleigh:**

And I've seen parts—

**Sydnee:**

... and they live, yeah.

**Raleigh:**

... episodes, where Dr. Christina Yang has removed parts of people's hearts and replaced them with other parts.

**Sydnee:**

How, h—

**Taylor:**

Other, other parts of, like, [laughs] the body? Like a toe?

**Raleigh:**

Like fake hearts.

**Sydnee:**

Oh.

**Raleigh:**

Or other hearts. [laughing]

**Taylor:**

That is true too. You can do these things.

**Raleigh:**

Or, or they took someone's second toe and put it where their thumb was 'cause they lost their thumb so they'd have some sort of, uh, uh, thumb.

**Taylor:**

[laughs] How much of your medical knowledge is based on Grey's Anatomy alone?

**Raleigh:**

All. [laughing] Yes.

**Sydnee:**

All right, that's not great. I would say it's still better than The Resident, but that's not great. [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

It's a very good show.

**Sydnee:**

[laughs] I'm not...

**Raleigh:**

Well, um, yes.

**Sydnee:**

Listen, Scrubs is the best medical show.

**Raleigh:**

Hmm.

**Sydnee:**

There it is.

**Raleigh:**

Oh.

**Sydnee:**

Well, no, no, no. MASH is the best medical show if you wanna get down to it. But Scrubs, modern day.

**Taylor:**

Are we... Just for clarity are we talking in, like, accuracy or just entertainment value?

**Sydnee:**

Uh, well, I mean—

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

I think entertainment value is more personal opinion. Like I—

**Taylor:**

Okay.

**Sydnee:**

I do love Scrubs for its entertainment value, but if we're talking about, like, the way it is to be a resident a doctor in a hospital and, like, what that's like, I think Scrubs is pretty darn close. The medical stuff they do okay with. I



mean, there's some stuff that's wrong. There's... I've never seen a medical show that gets it perfectly right.

**Taylor:**

Right.

**Sydney:**

There's always something that's wrong. But, um, but they do okay with the medical stuff. And then, the, the way it is. It's like that's how it is. It was never like that on Grey's Anatomy. No one's scrub fit that well ever.

**Raleigh:**

[laughs]

**Sydney:**

Nobody looks that good in 'em. [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

Ah. Everybody looks good in scrubs on Grey's Anatomy.

**Sydney:**

I know they do. Um, everybody just looks good on Grey's Anatomy.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydney:**

And also, people are always like having sex.

**Raleigh:**

That's... yeah.

**Taylor:**

That, that doesn't happen in every closet or empty room at a hospital ever?

**Raleigh:**

That's not what goes on in the on—call room?

**Sydney:**

No, who has time for that? [laughing] Plus, you're... Like, I remember once in a... This is totally off the subject. There's a book called House of God about being a medical resident that's a great book that everybody in

medicine has... is supposed to read at some point. Because you're like, "Yes, this is what it's like." And he talks about leaving... The resident talks about leaving the hospital and feeling like smelly and green. That's how he describes it.

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

That's how you feel when you stay the night in a hospital. Like, when you're on call and you work all night and you've slept in a call room you feel like there's the— there's stuff growing on you. [laughing] I'm like, "No." I mean, until you get home and shower and get all the scrubs off and everything, I don't know who wants to have sex like that. I don't know who's like, "I feel disgusting."

**Raleigh:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

My breath is awful. All I ate all night were packs of, like, peanut butter crackers and Oreos that I found and Shasta. And I am ready to go for it."

**Taylor:**

This just sounds like my regular, like, Tuesday. I don't know. It's, it's fine.

**Sydnee:**

[laughs]

**Taylor:**

But, but I digress. So you've been... So you've got an internship where it is, it is not paid, but at the same time it's more at your leisure.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah. I mean, it's for experience doing what you want to do, but there's no, like, hard, fast hours and amount of work you have to produce. And, I mean, it's just for high school seniors and college students, so—

**Sydnee:**

And you are interested in journalism—

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

... as a career path, so this is a good fit for you?

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

And vide—... I guess, video journalism.

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

Is that what... Is that what it will be?

**Raleigh:**

What do you mean?

**Sydnee:**

That's the major?

**Raleigh:**

No. That is not a major. That does not exist.

**Sydnee:**

Well, I don't know.

**Raleigh:**

You just created a major.

**Taylor:**

That sounds like a thing that would be a thing.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Taylor:**

It sounds like a thing.

**Sydnee:**

Like digital media.

**Raleigh:**

Digital media is a major.

**Sydnee:**

Okay.

**Raleigh:**

They have... Actually, in a lot of colleges, this is off topic, but very interesting, they've removed print journalism majors.

**Taylor:**

Really?

**Raleigh:**

Because those jobs are kind of dying. So, you can get online journalism majors, and you can get, like, digital media majors that kind of span journalism and video production and media production and social media skills and that kind of thing. Like, getting an online journalism degree you have to take classes and, like, social media management and working on the internet and stuff like that.

**Sydnee:**

Huh.

**Raleigh:**

But, yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Wow.

**Taylor:**

I don't know how to feel about that. It's... I mean, uh, from a practicality standpoint, I understand that fewer and fewer people are getting their news from newspapers. I get that.

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:**

Or like, I guess, news magazines. But at the same time, like, that's—

**Raleigh:**

Well—

**Taylor:**

There's a... That's such an art.

**Sydnee:**

I mean, that kind of—

**Taylor:**

Hmm.

**Sydnee:**

... you know, print journalism is su—... I mean, it is. It's like it's a skill, but there's also there's such an art to it.

**Raleigh:**

You have to take classes that's just in article writing and journalism and investigation and interviews and stuff like that for a major in online journalism. So, I mean, you could technically major in online journalism and then go get a job at, like—

**Sydnee:**

In print.

**Raleigh:**

... a newspaper.

**Taylor:**

Okay. That is interesting though.

**Raleigh:**

It's really interesting.

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:**

Like, I do want... I mean, obviously, I can't foresee a future where we don't have newspapers. But at the same time, I'm thinking even if my generation, like, nobody gets the newspaper.

**Raleigh:**

The only person I know—

**Taylor:**

That's just not a thing we do.

**Raleigh:**

... that reads a newspaper is dad.

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

I think there will be a place for local newspapers for a while.

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Because I still think you have, like, a strong interest in local news that you're not gonna see well represented on, like, the internet—

**Raleigh:**

Sure.

**Sydnee:**

... right away. And so, I think that... I think what would be... Um, and, and I say this as a subscriber to The New York Times who, I mean, granted most of the week I get mine online. But I get it in print on Sundays—

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

... 'cause I like getting the Sunday paper.

**Raleigh:**

Nerd.

**Sydnee:**

Because I'm old. [laughs] But, um, as somebody who does get a physical newspaper one day a week and it is The New York Times, I wonder more about big papers like that, that do a lot of, like, national news and international news and that kind of stuff 'cause so much of that you can find well covered on the internet. And, I mean, The New York Times has a wonderful mobile—

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

... site and—

**Raleigh:**

If you get their app, they'll send you highlights and notifications of breaking news as it's happening.

**Sydnee:**

So why, you know, I mean, I get the paper because I like it aesthetically, but why do I need that?

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

I don't know. Are there, are there a lot of opportunities for you to do stuff like this now?

**Raleigh:**

Yeah. I mean, think about, like, pretty much every major news source now has some sort of online presence. Whether it's like The New York Times that it's an app or they just have an online version of their newspaper or they have videos they put out. I mean, think about even where Justin works for

Vox Media they only put out videos, but they put out educational videos on politics and current events and news and stuff.

**Sydnee:**

Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:**

But they also do pop culture and video games and—

**Sydnee:**

Hmm.

**Raleigh:**

I mean, BuzzFeed has 20 YouTube channels and has online articles and has all sorts of stuff like that so—

**Sydnee:**

But there... Are there a lot of opportunities for you to get involved as a young person like this internship?

**Raleigh:**

Um, I mean, I wouldn't say a lot, but once you're in college I think there's a lot more because they look for people that are interested in that kind of thing.

**Sydnee:**

Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:**

And there's one I also applied for with The New York Times where they're looking for five young people, like college students, or recent college graduates or high school seniors, um, because they want... They have a student written newsletter that they want voices from, like, my generation writing for them because they have people not from my generation writing about my generation. But not people directly in it writing about it.

**Taylor:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

Right.



**Raleigh:**

So, I think so.

**Sydnee:**

I wonder if that's part of that... 'Cause when I think about, like, when, when Tey and I were younger, I don't remember... And I mean granted I have to, I have to think about the field I was going into. In medicine—

**Raleigh:**

Well—

**Sydnee:**

... you don't get to, like—

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Taylor:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

... do a high school internship. [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

You can't, like, go work at a hospital when you're 17.

**Sydnee:**

No, no. No, I mean, unless you're Doogie Howser, no.

**Taylor:**

I was gonna say there's an exception [laughing].

**Sydnee:**

But I, uh, I did a lot of job shadowing.

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

I was able to do that, which was, like, go follow a doctor around and look clueless.

**Raleigh:**

Right.

**Sydnee:**

And that... I mean, I guess that was cool.

**Raleigh:**

[laughs]

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

You know, I got... I followed our cousin around.

**Raleigh:**

Did they let you see patients?

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

Like go in the room where they saw patients?

**Sydnee:**

You signed HIPAA stuff.

**Raleigh:**

Oh, okay.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah. They, they make you go through training and sign paperwork and everything and—

**Raleigh:**

Gotcha.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah. Um, but I went with our cousin, Charles, who's a physician—

**Raleigh:**

Oh.

**Sydnee:**

... and followed him around and he showed me cool stuff and I learned a lot. And I realized I had the stomach for it. [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

But you didn't get to, like, cure patients?

**Sydnee:**

I didn't do anything.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah. [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

I didn't touch anybody. I didn't ask any questions. I didn't, like, you know, I didn't have like a little plastic stethoscope.

**Raleigh:**

Stethoscope. [laughing]

**Sydnee:**

Um, I just, I just wandered around and watched. And, and it was more of, like, I guess the goal was not go get experience of any kind.

**Raleigh:**

Or just to know if that's what you wanted to do?

**Sydnee:**

Yeah. I mean, I feel like that's what I gained from it was that I left thinking I really do enjoy this.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

This, this is something I can see myself doing. I mean, you list it on college applications so—

**Raleigh:**

Right.

**Sydnee:**

I guess theoretically it has some value—

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

... in that, from that standpoint, I guess.

**Raleigh:**

But, I mean, I also can list what I'm doing on a—

**Sydnee:**

Yes.

**Raleigh:**

... college application.

**Sydnee:**

Yes.

**Raleigh:**

And I think it has, like, a double purpose for experience on a small scale and also knowing if that's what you wanna do.

**Sydnee:**

Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:**

Because, I mean, if someone signed up for this internship and realized they don't wanna be responsible for, like, coming up with ideas and making content and putting out there for people to read then it's like, "Well, it's not what you wanna do."

**Sydnee:**

Sure.

**Raleigh:**

But, uh, also if that is what you wanna do then you put that on job and college applications.

**Sydnee:**

Well, I would make the case that it sounds more, um—

**Taylor:**

Absolutely.

**Sydnee:**

... relevant and helpful and impactful on an application than job shadowing did.

**Raleigh:**

Well, I also think... Oh, go ahead.

**Sydnee:**

No, I was gonna say I think it's, it's a complete different perception of, like, what your role is. Because I—

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

... I remember job shadowing too and it was very much... It kind of... You observed and you go like, "Oh, one day this could be me." But you're actually producing things, you know? It's not just like—

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

It's... I think we were treated much more like kids that were just kind of getting to, like, live a fantasy whereas you're actually doing the, the thing.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Taylor:**

Yeah. I think that's a really good point.

**Raleigh:**

I think also the job I want to do, living where we live, I couldn't job shadow, per se.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

Like there's no company—

**Taylor:**

Well—

**Raleigh:**

... anywhere around here. Unless, I went to, like, the newspaper.

**Taylor:**

What if you just hung out with Justin all day?

**Raleigh:**

Or if I just hang out with Justin. [laughing] Like, I guess that would be job shadowing for me. I could just like come sit with Justin for a day. [laughing] But, like—

**Sydnee:**

Actually, could you do that. Because here's, here's my theory.

**Raleigh:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

I think Justin spends at least half of his day playing video games and I wanna know—

**Raleigh:**

But isn't that his job?

**Taylor:**

I was gonna say, "Yeah."

**Sydnee:**

Okay.

**Taylor:**

He writes articles about video games sometimes.

**Sydnee:**

Yes, yes, but—

**Raleigh:**

Sydnee looks like she's getting very upset about this.

**Sydnee:**

Yes, that is. But here's the thing. He is playing this game right now called Monster Hunter, I think—

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

... is what it's called.

**Taylor:**

Yeah, he is.

**Sydnee:**

It seems to be popular. A lot of people are playing it.

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

I don't think he's writing about it.

**Raleigh:**

No, Griffin and Justin are both tweeting about it.

**Sydnee:**

And—

**Raleigh:**

They work for the same company.

**Sydnee:**

They're tweeting about it, but—

**Raleigh:**

Well, that's his job.

**Taylor:**

That is social media presence. I'm sorry, Syd—

**Sydnee:**

Well—

**Taylor:**

... I think he can kind of get away with [laughs] whatever he wants in that field. Like, you're gonna have to be real aware of, of the gaming world to catch him on this stuff. [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

This is always hard for me 'cause there's sometimes where I, like... And he'll tell me, like, I have to finish this game 'cause I've got to write this review and, like, I get that. I understand this part of it. It's been part of his job for a long time. But then, there are other times where I'm like, "I haven't—

**Raleigh:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

... I haven't seen you write any articles about those. I didn't see anything. When, uh, when is the big review coming out?"

**Raleigh:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

And I also know enough now to know that, like, if the game's been out for a long time and he's still playing it, he's not writing a review, he just wants to play it. 'Cause those reviews come out really, like, early. They want to get them out, like, right away.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

You don't write a review after everybody's been playing the game for a couple months.



**Taylor:**

He might be writing a, like a, you know, a retrospective think piece or something. [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

Yeah. And I say this 'cause I still, like, will follow new articles written about games that I played, like, 10 years ago, so it happens. I don't know.

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

And not just being Devil's advocate like, uh...

**Taylor:**

Uh, the only way we'll know for sure is if Riley shadows—

**Raleigh:**

I'm gonna job shadow Justin. [laughing]

**Taylor:**

There you go.

**Sydnee:**

And tell me how much of his day is actually spent working and how much is spent, I don't know, baking things and playing video games.

**Raleigh:**

I'm just gonna sit there with a pad of paper and a pencil and just stare at him while he plays video games.

**Sydnee:**

[laughs]

**Raleigh:**

Just write down everything I need to know.

**Sydnee:**

He won't mind. He's always asking me to watch him play video games—

**Raleigh:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

... and I've never. I know there are people who enjoy that. I'm not one of 'em.

**Raleigh:**

I do like watching people play video games.

**Sydnee:**

Do you? See I know... Uh, some people do.

**Taylor:**

Mm.

**Sydnee:**

I'm just not one of 'em.

**Taylor:**

It depends on the game for me.

**Raleigh:**

Hmm.

**Taylor:**

You know?

**Sydnee:**

You were very helpful. I know you did back in the day with Zelda.

**Taylor:**

Yeah. Oh, that's the thing. I've watched you play all the games. I never got to play. [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

Oh. [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

Oh.

**Raleigh:**

Please, Syd.

**Taylor:**

[laughs] Well, you were just—

**Sydnee:**

No, I thought we were a team.

**Taylor:**

No, you were just way better at... than me. And so, I like beating things more than I like actively participating. So watching you win was like better than me losing. [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

I do understand that.

**Taylor:**

Oh God, that just encapsulated my life [laughs].

**Sydnee:**

Aww. You were indispensable. We were a team. I did the button pushing but you were, you were the, you guided me through the [inaudible 00:23:45] of time.

**Taylor:**

I was the encouragement. [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

No, without you and the perfect guide, we never would've—

**Taylor:**

[laughs] You mean I could read.

**Sydnee:**

We never would've done so well.

**Taylor:**

That's what you were saying. I could read. [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

Taylor is really good at following steps.

**Taylor:**

[laughs] Reading aloud, that was my skill.

**Sydnee:**

We were a team. [laughing] Oh. Um, I wanna talk more about, about, about college. Or not college prep, future career prep, I guess. [laughing] But before we do that—

**Raleigh:**

Let's check the group message, shall we? [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

I say we shall.

**Raleigh:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

Uh, we've got a couple advertisers to tell you about today.

**Taylor:**

Woo-hoo.

**Sydnee:**

Do you want me to... do you want me to get started?

**Raleigh:**

Don't we have a group message noise, Taylor? What's our group message noise?

**Taylor:**

Oh, bee-boop-boop.

**Raleigh:**

There we go. [laughs]

**Taylor:**

Now we're in the group message.

**Raleigh:**

[laughs] We're in it.

**Sydnee:**

No, some shows they do music, but we don't do, we don't do that here.

**Taylor:**

Oh, we do something better.

**Raleigh:**

It's too high tech.

**Sydnee:**

Uh, our first sponsor this week we wanna tell you about is Hello Fresh. Now we have, uh, we've told you about Hello Fresh before. We're all fans. We've all tried it out. Um, so if you... You may have heard about it, but you haven't, we're gonna tell you about it again.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Uh, Still Buffering is support in part by Hello Fresh, the meal kit delivery service that delivers your favorite recipes and premeasured ingredients so you can just cook, eat, and enjoy. Uh, all the ingredients come premeasured in handy labeled meal kits, so you know which ingredients go with which reci— recipes. And you got three plans to choose from, classic, veggie, and family.

**Raleigh:**

Oh.

**Sydnee:**

And so, do a family [laughs]—

**Raleigh:**

How nice.

**Sydnee:**

Family. [laughs] So, family. And, I mean, I guess, I wonder if you can overlap that ve— for a veggie family.

**Raleigh:**

Or a classic family.

**Sydnee:**

The... I do... Do you feel okay with that? We just made that distinction, Tey. Classic family versus veggie family.

**Taylor:**

I feel a little offended by that.

**Raleigh:**

[laughing]

**Taylor:**

I think you can have a classic veggie family and that's okay.

**Raleigh:**

There you go.

**Sydney:**

But you can vouch for the veggie box that's good right?

**Taylor:**

Oh, hex yeah. I love the veggie box. It's... They're... I like to have parties around them 'cause all of my—

**Raleigh:**

[laughs]

**Taylor:**

... friends know that I sometimes get them. It's like, "Guys, guys, I got a box. Who wants veggie enchiladas? Come on." [laughing]

**Sydney:**

Well, it's good because, I mean, you see so many... Like even at, at restaurants where they have, like, vegetarian meals that are really just like we left the meat off for you.

**Taylor:**

Yeah. Well, and I—

**Sydney:**

There you go.

**Taylor:**

Yeah. I hate stuff like that. And I also, like, am mainly just plant—based. Like, I like m— veggie meals that focus on lots of veggies and these really do, so that's cool part. It's not just like some rice. It's like, no, no, no—

**Raleigh:**

[laughs]

**Taylor:**

... tons of fresh, beautiful produce and we're gonna tell you what to do with it.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah. That's really great. That's it.

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Because then that's from people who know what they're doing when they design meals.

**Taylor:**

Absolutely.

**Sydnee:**

And they make it easy to cook delicious, balanced dinners for less than \$10 a meal. They only take about 30 minutes to cook so they'll, they'll fit into a, if you're living on a time budget as well. They work well. And you can try things you never think to cook on your own and enjoy eating outside of your comfort zone. So if our listeners wanna try this out how can they do this?

**Raleigh:**

Um, if you want \$30 off your first week of Hello Fresh, you can visit [hellofresh.com](https://hellofresh.com) and enter the promo code STILLBUFFERING30 and that's 30 whole dollars off your first week of Hello Fresh.

**Sydnee:**

So check it out. [Hellofresh.com](https://hellofresh.com). Promo code STILLBUFFERING30.

**Taylor:**

Have a party.

**Sydnee:**

Have a party.

**Raleigh:**

There you go.

**Sydnee:**

Have a party.

**Taylor:**

Have a veggie party.

**Sydnee:**

Or a classic party. We won't judge. Uh, our other sponsor we wanna tell you about this week is Squarespace. So let's say that you wanna create a beautiful website, okay?

**Raleigh:**

Okay. I wanna create a beautiful website.

**Sydnee:**

Okay, great. Yeah. Then you... Maybe you have a cool idea.

**Raleigh:**

Uh, but, what... Sydnee, what if I wanna promote my physical or online business?

**Sydnee:**

That's fine too. Maybe you wanna announce an upcoming event or a special project.

**Raleigh:**

What about more? I wanna do more. [laughing]

**Sydnee:**

Squarespace can do all this for you. [laughs] Um, if you... Whenever one of you have your first cool idea [laughing].

**Taylor:**

Still waiting for that—



**Sydnee:**

I know you—

**Taylor:**

... but [laughing] Squarespace is there for me when I do. [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

They do this by giving you beautiful, mobile optimized templates created by world class designers.

**Raleigh:**

Wow.

**Sydnee:**

They have powerful e-commerce functionality that lets you sell anything online.

**Raleigh:**

Ooh.

**Sydnee:**

Uh, it's a new way to buy domains and choose from over 200—

**Taylor:**

Extensions.

**Sydnee:**

[laughs] Thank you.

**Taylor:**

You're welcome.

**Raleigh:**

Wow.

**Sydnee:**

What else can you do?

**Raleigh:**

And it comes with a built-in search engine optimization and analytics that help you grow in real time. So, like, not fake time, real time.

**Sydnee:**

[laughs]

**Raleigh:**

Um—

**Sydnee:**

It's better than fake time. [laughing]

**Raleigh:**

And we have a special offer for all our listeners.

**Sydnee:**

What is it?

**Raleigh:**

Well, if you wanna go to head, uh, the, hmm, squarespace.com, you can get a free trial. And when you're ready to launch, use the offer code BUFFERING to save 10% off your first purchase of website or domain. That's squarespace.com and enter the promo code BUFFERING when you're ready to launch and you save 10% off.

**Sydnee:**

So go check that out right now or when you get your first cool idea.

**Taylor:**

Yeah. All right.

**Sydnee:**

All right. Well, anyway, so, Raleigh, you were saying that the, there are more opportunities now, especially once you get into college—

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

... to do these kinds of things.

**Raleigh:**

And, I mean, especially with the kind of stuff I wanna do because it's all through the internet anyways.

**Sydnee:**

Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:**

So, you don't have to live somewhere specific or be going to an internship every day instead of going to class to be able to have one.

**Sydnee:**

That's what would be interesting. I mean, 'cause I see, I see where you're going with that because when I think about like... I mean, it was easy for me, I guess. I wanted to go into medicine. Most, most places you'll find a doctor. Not everywhere, but most places—

**Raleigh:**

Most places.

**Sydnee:**

... you'll find a doctor that you could, like, go hang out with or ask questions or, you know, if you're interested and you want to know, like, is this what I want to do, that kind of thing.

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

Obviously, there weren't a lot of opportunities to do things, but to learn about it. Um, but now with the internet, it's hard to use that excuse.

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

Because you can be anywhere.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

And do anything—

**Taylor:**

Mm.

**Sydnee:**

... essentially. With that, do you think there will become, there will become, like, an expectation that if you're gonna get into these fields and you're gonna do these things? And if you're gonna get into college programs that are competitive for this—

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

... that you have done this. Like, is experience... It's always been the at coming out of high school all you really had to have was the education, right?

**Taylor:**

Right. Right.

**Sydnee:**

We expected the rest of your life is about the experience with the education too, but the experience.

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

Do you think we'll start dialing that younger? Like, you better get the experience now?

**Raleigh:**

I don't know if necessarily going into college and coming out of high school. Because, I mean, most like journalism degree programs are not like highly competitive in the sense that, like, it's not like you need to have a ton of experience and hours and skills and have to have a portfolio to get in. Um, but I would say coming out of college.

Because once you come out of college and you have a degree it's not a field where you're expected to go to graduate school or have any sort of degree higher than an undergraduate degree. So coming out of it, unless you have that special experience doing something else, everyone's kind of on the

same field. So I think to have an advantage and be confident in the fact that you could get a job after college you have to have some sort of experience.

**Sydnee:**

Do you think it was already like that in the art world, Tey, 'cause it kinda sounds like?

**Taylor:**

Well, you know, it's funny 'cause that's what I'm thinking. Like, I remember specific questions. I mean, I went into cartooning, so it made sense. Like, have I made anything? Like, have I actually printed out and, like, mass produced, like, zines or comics. Like, that was part of it. 'Cause it's not just like can you do this, but also do you have, like, the, the drive to actually see something through to the end?

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:**

And I can't imagine now. Like, I mean, that... I follow people on like Tumblr and stuff and these are kids in high school that are making amazing art, but they're selling it at Etsy stores. They're, you know, like... They have, like, an actual art business going before they even consider art school if they're even bothering considering it 'cause they're getting off the ground so early.

So I feel like, in that sense, the amount of proving you can do before you even get to college is immense and it's gotta change the way that people look at college applications. I can't imagine if you have two kids that are both talented, but one has put together an online business and, you know, actively is updating, like, a, an, an art website. Like, how can you weigh that against the kid that just has talent.

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

That's really interesting because... And it, it's funny. I'm thinking about it more now now as, like, a parent from my perspective 'cause I'm kind of done with that. [laughing] But that part of my life I don't to... I got a job. I'm doing what I wanna do. Um, but I think about that as a parent. Like, I feel... I remember how many times mom looked at me and said, "Your job is to do well in school."

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Taylor:**

Right.

**Sydnee:**

That's your job right now. And so, that's what I devoted myself to. I did well. I got good grades and I tried to excel and, and find, like, educational opportunities—

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

... to get accolades within school. Um, and I did the stuff that you knew was part of, like, a college application. Like, I volunteered and did community service and, um... Not just because I had to. Like it—

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

Yes, it's good, it's gratifying. And I don't mean to write it off like I did the thing you have to do. [laughing] No, I mean, I participated in those things. I was in clubs that I was interested in. Now that I will say was all... It was partially because I knew clubs looked good.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Taylor:**

Right.

**Sydnee:**

Clubs sometimes are really boring.

**Raleigh:**

That's true.

**Sydnee:**

So... But I never, like... The idea that I would've had to have contact with the world that I was headed towards, like, in high school or even in college that I would had to have, that I would've had to have, like, physicians or, you know, people within medicine, like, vouching for me or me showing that I could live in that world, or, like, demonstrating my abilities, never would've occurred to me.

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

Now granted, that's not a great representation in medicine. But, in general, I don't know what my kids are gonna do when they get older.

**Raleigh:**

Hmm.

**Sydnee:**

That's, that's kind of scary for me as a parent 'cause I feel like I was not prepared with that mindset. That's not the way I think about your educational years, but that is the way we need to think about it if we want our kids to be competitive, I guess.

**Taylor:**

Oh, yeah.

**Raleigh:**

I mean, I've kind of had to make that transition myself the past two years. I've gone half day to school because, I mean, the podcast is my job and I get to, you know, go half day for that. But, I mean, it's also experience in what I want to go into producing media online.

**Taylor:**

Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:**

And it looks good to programs like that and to scholarships to have something like that I can say I've been doing for two years. Not just something like last minute to try to put on an application.

**Taylor:**

Sure.

**Raleigh:**

I actually have experience in, um... But because of that, I don't have as many credits as everyone else. I don't have as many AP classes and honors classes. Like, I get As in the ones I do have and I have a high GPA, but I'm not in as many afterschool clubs because I'm not there after school. I'm not, you know... I'm, I'm not number one in my class because I don't have as many credits as all the people who are the top five in my class.

**Taylor:**

Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:**

So it's different in the sense that they probably have just as good of a chance as I do on college applications with all, like, the normal stuff that you would expect out of a high school student. And I kind of have to, like, prove that what I am doing is just as valuable to a college education because I know what I want to do. And because I'm already—

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

... kind of trying to, like, specify what I'm doing in high school.

**Taylor:**

Well, see that just seems so, so interesting. 'Cause, you know, when you think of it like in the opposite direction, like, what is a college actually looking for. Like, what do they want in a student that will then become an alumni that will represent the college out in the world. Like—

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:**

You, you ultimately want somebody that's gonna be successful in what they're studying with.

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:**



And somebody that already comes in the door with some level of success or, like, presence in... especially in the, in the media world. Like, how do you weigh that against someone that's like, "I have a lot of credits." Like, it's like, I don't, I don't know. Like, I feel like that's... From a college standpoint, what is the more enticing, you know, catch there? I would say—

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Taylor:**

... it's the person that's coming in with a presence already.

**Sydnee:**

Well, and I think, I think what you're hitting on too is you're gonna see variations depending on the school, the location. Like, the, the culture of that area.

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

You know, that age—

**Raleigh:**

True.

**Sydnee:**

... of the people who are making the decisions.

**Taylor:**

[laughs] For sure.

**Sydnee:**

You know, because I think that a younger person would see that kind of experience and say like, "Oh, that's what it's gonna take."

**Raleigh:**

Right.

**Sydnee:**

This person gets it already.

**Taylor:**

Right.

**Sydnee:**

They're already entering this world and it's a hard world to enter and they're already getting in there. And so, I'm more inclined to think they're on the path to success. Whereas, somebody who has been doing college admissions for decades is gonna look at the same kind of stuff that they've been looking at—

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

... which is like, "Well, but look how many more classes this person took."

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

And it's hard to say what would win... I think it's gonna be very subjective for a while.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

It's kind of like a culture lag moment.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Like, what, what... And I don't know who succeeds. Because I am somebody who came very much from a I did the education thing.

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

And I think I've done fine. So I don't think I suffered for it. Um, but that's also very field specific—

**Raleigh:**

Right.

**Sydnee:**

... so I don't know. I think my... What I would imagine, Raleigh, is that you are in a better position for what you wanna do from all these experiences you've had.

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

That's what I would guess.

**Raleigh:**

It's only hard because, like, applying for scholarships these big four-eyed scholarships I'm trying to get, they all kind of have the same generic outline in the sense that they want a chart of all of your academic awards and honors and achievements and clubs and community service projects. And how many hours you spend a week in all these clubs and what clubs you're the president of.

**Sydnee:**

Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:**

And for me, I don't really have a ton of those. Like, I don't have a ton of, like, academic awards.

**Sydnee:**

Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:**

Or I'm not president of any clubs. I'm in some clubs but, I mean, filling out a chart it looks very scarce. And it looks like I don't have a lot in that area. But just because I've spent so much of my time in the past two years dedicated to stuff, focused on my career, and not resume builders basically.

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Taylor:**

But that's so strange to me 'cause... You know, and I remember that too. Like, the emphasis on being well rounded, uh, on college applications.

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Taylor:**

Like, I found it very strange that in my college [laughs] interview for, like, an art school they were super impressed that I played tennis. I'm like, "Great. I'm glad you, you're impressed with that, but why?" [laughs] "Why are you?" I will never actively make any art with my tennis racket. I do not know why this matters.

**Raleigh:**

[laughs]

**Taylor:**

And, I mean, like, you know, like... And, and like I've said before, like, I had really good grades coming into art school so I got a scholarship for that. But it never mattered. Like, it, it didn't actually help me in my field. Like, I—

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Taylor:**

It's a weird litmus that we have. And I feel like it is massively outdated because it kind of assumes that you can put everybody on the same scale and, you know, the people that rank higher are more valuable students. The people that rank lower are less.

But, you know... But then, I can think of this from, like, you know, from the y—, the younger generation. Like, if somebody had like a highly successful YouTube channel, like, with a ton of, like, you know, 100s of 1000s of subscribers, that seems like a really valuable person to have at your school versus somebody that, like, checked all the boxes. It's a, it's a weird—

**Sydnee:**

Right.

**Taylor:**

It's a weird place to put the focus on.

**Raleigh:**

And there's nowhere for me to put what I'm doing in an application. Like, I've had to find ways to fit it in there to try to show them, like, this is what I've spent my time doing. I promise, I just, like, don't go half day and then—

**Taylor:**

[laughs]

**Raleigh:**

... do nothing with my time. I promise I have been doing something productive for the past two years. But, I mean, it's like—

**Taylor:**

There's no box for ya. Yeah, yeah.

**Raleigh:**

There's no box. I mean, there's a box for job experience and I can put that, but there's not even anywhere to describe what it is that I do. And I just have to hope that when I put my job place and title, they will somehow understand. And when you have to write an essay about interesting facts about yourself, I have to try to fit that in there in the word limit.

But, like, some applications, there's no space for interesting facts about yourself. There's no space for job experience. They just wanna know your awards and your achievements and how many AP classes you've taken and your test scores. And they want you to answer an essay question.

**Sydnee:**

You know, I wonder if this will... You know, you talked about being well rounded, Tey, and I wonder if this will start to shift that conversation, which we've been trying to do for a long time, right? Because the idea of, of a well—rounded "student" really fits in well if you're talking about a liberal arts education where maybe you aren't 100% sure what direction you wanna go in—

**Taylor:**

Right.

**Sydnee:**

But you think you kind of wanna go this way. But you wanna test out some other things. Um, I think that having a ton of different experiences and stuff, I think it... One, I mean, it can make you a really cool, interesting person.

**Taylor:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

So, I'm not criticizing that. And I am somebody who took a bunch of weird classes in college just 'cause I was interested in it—

**Taylor:**

Right.

**Sydnee:**

... so I'm biased towards this. And I found great value in it and I think my life's been enriched by it. Personally, that was a good decision for me.

**Taylor:**

No, same.

**Sydnee:**

But that being said, you make a great point. I don't know why that stuff mattered in a lot of what I did with my life. Um, I don't think it, it, it did. I think I could've been a fine doctor whether I did all that fun stuff and had all those experiences and was well round— "well rounded" or not. Now, we're having more conversations where we're like, you know, isn't it good to have young people who are already very focused. Isn't that fine?

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

Why, why is that a bad thing? Why should we take points away from you because you already know what you wanna do, you know where you're headed. You're not really into a sport—

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

... or a club or a, you know, it... This is what you wanna do and you've devoted all your time and energy and effort into being the best that thing you can be. Why is, why is that detrimental?

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

Maybe we need to refocus—

**Raleigh:**

I mean—

**Sydnee:**

... that both those paths are okay as opposed to, oh, but it's the well—rounded student you want?

**Raleigh:**

Right.

**Taylor:**

Well, and I think—

**Sydnee:**

Not always.

**Taylor:**

It, it shuts out a lot of people that maybe have, I don't wanna say weaknesses, but somebody's that's, you know, like, really, really talented in one specific area. Their brain works like this specifically, but they don't have this other stuff. It's like that, that person might be a genius in that field and, yet, they might not get the same opportunities because they have weaknesses that counteract. And they're not gonna get through that door to have those opportunities.

**Sydnee:**

Oh, I'm sure. I mean, I mean, I think... And this is not my area, so I'm kind of guessing, but I think I'm, I'm right on this. If you look into, like, the tech field, there are probably a lot of people in tech fields who devoted themselves wholeheartedly to that—

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

... and we're interested in taking a bunch of fun, cool classes just for the heck of it and, no, they had a goal. They have a skill. They have a talent. They're very intelligent and they wanted to do that thing. And they're incredibly successful and they've changed the word.

**Raleigh:**

Hmm.

**Sydnee:**

What, you know, why, why is that bad?

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Taylor:**

Mm.

**Raleigh:**

I mean, my high school has even started implementing academy programs for freshman where you have to pick what field you want to go into after high school. And all of your classes you take, your class requirements are different. You don't have to have as many various, like, art requirements and foreign language requirements.

If you wanna go into health sciences then you have to take a bunch of, like, health classes and sports medicine classes. And you're focused all throughout high school. So not my class because this wasn't implemented until this past year, but all of the classes graduating in the next four or five years will all have spent their high school careers focused in one area—

**Taylor:**

Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:**

... and won't have as many diverse classes and credits and clubs applying to colleges.



**Sydnee:**

Interesting, which... And I don't think that's inherently bad. While that's a part of me that goes, "Oh, no." [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

It, it's the part of me that, like, took a, a film class in college that it was, it was a Fight Club class.

**Raleigh:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

It was a class all about the movie Fight Club.

**Taylor:**

Oh. [laughs]

**Sydnee:**

I didn't know that going in.

**Taylor:**

What?

**Sydnee:**

I thought it was—

**Taylor:**

Oh.

**Sydnee:**

I took a class called... I don't remember what it was called. It was something about film. Just for fun I just took a... I wanted to take a film class, see what that was like. And it ended up being an entire study of Fight Club.

**Taylor:**

I wish I—

**Sydnee:**

Um, it was very interesting.

**Taylor:**

Yes.

**Sydnee:**

I know a lot about Fight Club now.

**Taylor:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

I still... It's not one of my favorite movies, but by any stretch, [laughs] but I know a lot about it.

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

Anyway, um, so there's that part of me that took a Fight Club class that goes, oh, but they won't have those... You, you won't necessarily be exposed to all that stuff if you're kind of pigeonholed early. But for some people that's the right thing. I think the hard part is we need... If we're going to expect students to make these decisions so young, you've got to have people, whether it's counselors at school or teachers or mentors or parents or siblings or whoever, people in their lives who are sitting down with them to figure out what track is best for them.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Because that's so hard to do when you're young. And if you do it right I think that's a great way, that's a great way to start getting people in that direction and not forcing them into, like, well, everybody's just gotta go to college and try everything out.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

Well, no, not everybody wants to do that or should or can or has to.

**Taylor:**

Mm.

**Sydnee:**

But you, you need someone to help guide you.

**Rileigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

That's a hard thing to do alone.

**Taylor:**

Well, and I think it's also, like, I... 'Cause I had the same. I hate the idea of people not doing lots of things. Like, 'cause that's always been what I... I took a ton of weird classes in art school. I was taking like, you know, anything that was close to science. I'm like, "This, I wanna take this." But that's—

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Taylor:**

That's the way my brain works. Like, I kind of get obsessed with different things and I move to thing to thin. And I kind of always come back to illustration, but it's not like I don't go off on wild tangents. I mean, right now, like, I'm a bartender as well and that's just as important to me. But, like, I think it's the education has to find a way to treat people and it has to have a formula.

And the fact is is that people are different. Some people are single minded and focused. Some people are naturally well rounded because they just... That's where their interest lies. It lies in four or five things and those things change sometimes. It's just you can't... You... There's no cookie cutter way of, you know, figuring out how to teach everybody all the same.

**Sydnee:**

And if you focus on, which is so much harder, helping each individual reach their full potential, not just like what they can do, but what would fulfill them and make them happy and make them a successful human. And not just like, in a career slot.

**Taylor:**

Right.

**Sydnee:**

If you wanna do that—

**Taylor:**

[laughs] We don't think about people that way—

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Taylor:**

... here.

**Sydnee:**

That's... Well, exactly. That's so much harder than just, oh, shuffle this person into this track and this one into this track 'cause they seem like, yeah, they can do that. They can do that, they can do that. And maybe they can and maybe they will succeed in whatever you just shuffled them into, but is that the happiest version of that person? Is that the most successful, fulfilled version of that person? Figuring that out takes a lot more work and personal effort. And you can't do that at, like, a college application level or a—

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

... job training level. Like, that's personal work that we would have to be doing with each student, I guess, in high school—

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

... at least. And I don't know how to, I don't know how to crack that.

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

It's scary as a parent.

**Taylor:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

I guess. I guess I need to... I'm not gonna think about that yet.

**Raleigh:**

You have like—

**Sydnee:**

Second one isn't even born yet.

**Raleigh:**

Yeah. You have about 10 years before.

**Taylor:**

Did you have Charlie on a, on a track yet or, uh, in an academy?

**Raleigh:**

Yeah.

**Sydnee:**

No. She, uh, she vacillates with all the things that she wants to do.

**Taylor:**

Hmm.

**Raleigh:**

You mean, between being like a princess or—

**Sydnee:**

Mm-hmm.

**Raleigh:**

... a dancer.

**Sydnee:**

Or a ballet dancer.

**Raleigh:**

Mm-hmm.

**Sydnee:**

Or sometimes she says doctor and I go, "Well, we'll talk about it."

**Raleigh:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

Not that I don't believe in her. It's just, you know, it's not all roses.

**Taylor:**

Uh, but—

**Raleigh:**

Also, she's three.

**Taylor:**

And you know what—

**Sydnee:**

Yeah.

**Taylor:**

And, and I'm 32 and I'm still some days like, "Maybe I wanna be a princess. No, maybe, maybe [laughing] maybe I wanna be a firefighter. Oh, I'll figure it out someday." [laughs]

**Raleigh:**

[laughs]

**Sydnee:**

I did, I did ask her. We read a book about, uh, it was all about female superheroes. It was a really cool book. Uh, you would've appreciated it, Tey. And we read it and at the end it said, "What is your superpower?" And so, I asked her and she immediately said, "Love."

**Taylor:**

Oh. [laughing]

**Raleigh:**

Oh.

**Sydnee:**

I know.

**Raleigh:**

There my superpower is love.

**Taylor:**

It is.

**Sydnee:**

Immediately. Love. And I said, "It is." And then, she stopped for a second and went, "And farts." [laughing]

**Taylor:**

There could not be two better answers to that question.

**Sydnee:**

So whatever career path she's on it will utilize the power of—

**Taylor:**

Of love and farts.

**Sydnee:**

And farts.

**Taylor:**

All right. Yeah.

**Raleigh:**

And that is what we will leave you with. [laughing]

**Sydnee:**

Well, thank you, sisters, and thank you, everyone, for being patient with me and my time of illness. [laughing] Um, we will, we will hopefully be on track

from now on assuming everything goes well next week. And, uh, thank you for listening.

Thank you to the Maximum Fun Network for hosting our show. You can check out a lot of other great podcasts at [maximumfun.org](http://maximumfun.org). You can tweet at us @stillbuff. You can email us at [stillbuffering@maximumfun.org](mailto:stillbuffering@maximumfun.org) if you have any kinds of thoughts or suggestions or comments or show topics you think we should talk about. That kind of thing. Um, and thank you to the Nouvellas for our theme song, Baby You Change Your Mind.

**Raleigh:**

This has been Still Buffering, a sisters' guide to teens through the ages. I am Raleigh Smirl.

**Sydnee:**

I'm Sydnee McElroy.

**Taylor:**

And I'm Taylor Smirl.

**Raleigh:**

I'm a teenager.

**Taylor:**

And I—

**Sydnee:**

And I—

**Taylor:**

... was—

**Sydnee:**

... was—

**Taylor:**

... too.

[theme music plays]

**Sydnee:**

Love and farts, everybody. [laughs]



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