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### More Than a Job

Serving sandwiches seems pointless but it has changed my life. Working at a fast-food restaurant can be impactful no matter what others might say. When I first started working at Chick-Fil-A two years ago, some of my friends or family thought I wouldn't like it. They would say, "Oh, are you sure you want to work in the fast-food industry?" or "You probably won't like it because fast food jobs are never worth it." Some might say that fast food jobs are only good for people that can't amount to anything or people that can't find any other job. Others have said it sounds boring. These statements and questions could be true in some cases, but not for me and many others. Working for Chick-Fil-A is one of the best decisions I have made. I have learned so much and made so many friends. Here are some things I say about Chick-Fil-A and other fast-food restaurants. This job does require a lot of people skills and hard work. The pay average can increase with some effort and growth. It can also be a lot of fun and rewarding in the long run and I have learned so much on a personal and professional level from working at Chick-Fil-A.

One of the most common judgements people may make is that working at Chick-Fil-A or a fast-food restaurant is for unskilled people who don't have a bigger goal in life. While I see how this is a widely held belief, the truth is that it does require a lot of hard work, motivation,

positivity and people skills to perform the job well. This doesn't mean that Chick-Fil-A requires these skills or motivations, but they help you achieve and build them. Everyone needs someone to push them and coach them in their life. I remember when I first started at Chick-Fil-A and I didn't have much people skills because I was more shy than I am now and I never forced myself to get better at that. The people at Chick-Fil-A changed me into a more outgoing person by pushing me and helping me achieve my goals. I first started not knowing the purpose of how important it is to grow and achieve goals. I learned about leadership, being more outgoing and interactive with others, and being more positive in difficult situations. Chick-Fil-A has helped me by people challenging me and putting me in situations where I can grow like having me train a new employee or dealing with customers. I am now a team leader, and it took a lot of hard work and motivation because becoming a team leader is a process at Chick-Fil-A. They really care about me and want me to go somewhere in my life. Fast food restaurants can benefit one for more than just making money. These reasons how Chick-Fil-A has helped me grow and can help others grow proves that this job isn't for people who have no goals or purpose in life because everyone has a purpose in their life but might need someone to help them find it.

In addition to some thinking that fast food restaurants are for unskilled people, some might say, "Isn't it tiring making food for people all day?" This is something that my friends have asked me before and it is what some people misinterpret about fast food restaurants. Sure, I do make food because I work in the kitchen most of the time. This isn't what the job is all about, though. In fact, there is a lot more that goes into the job, like hanging out with team members and other leaders that I'm close with, getting to know new people, learning new skills, showing care for guests and others around me, learning about my own goals in life, goofing around (only when we aren't busy, of course) and a lot of other entertaining things. I remember this one time;

our night crew had just finished closing and we wanted to do team building exercises. We all brought fry boxes out of the freezer and did wall sits with the 30lb boxes on our laps. It was sort of a competition and a fun thing to do together. The one thing I love about Chick-Fil-A is that it isn't only about making and selling food. It is about how we impact others, growing in leadership and skills, making connections, and having fun. In response to the question above, I say no, it isn't always about making food and I usually always have a lot of fun and learn something new.

A lot of companies are starting their pay at a higher amount than most of the fast-food companies. "Why would I work at Chick-Fil-A when I can work at Walmart who pay seventeen dollars an hour?" This was my friend, Avas, response when I was trying to get her to come work with me at Chick-Fil-A. This response is something that a lot of people think about fast food restaurants and how they tend to pay less than bigger companies. This is a true fact about some fast-food restaurants because if they are a smaller business than they can't afford to up the price unlike some big companies that can. Chick-Fil-A does have a smaller pay rate than let's say, McDonald's does but we do have opportunities for a lot of promotions and awards. A backstory to this fact is that six months after starting my job I was awarded the Care Award for the month, which is basically an employee of the month award. I received one thousand dollars and free food for my family and I for the entire next month. They also have scholarships for college students which I applied to for this year. Even though Chick-Fil-A doesn't start with the highest paying wage, you can keep growing and eventually earn as much as any company would pay you.

"It won't be worth it." This is something I have heard before from friends and at the time I thought they were right. I was wrong. This job has changed me and helped me so much for my personal life, growth and skills. Chick-Fil-A has helped me a lot on my leadership skills which I

think is a great skill to have. I have learned to put others first, be positive and try to find the best in situations, and much more. There have been situations in my life that would have made me so angry at others but because of how much I have learned about positive attitude and care I have reacted in a way I never would have before I started working at Chick-Fil-A. One day at work I experienced a bad shift that I lead. I usually would have been super upset about it but after learning about positivity and developing, I saw it as a learning opportunity instead. My main point to this story is that if a job gives you life lessons or teaches you important skills you can keep then it is always worth it.

I have gone over why fast-food restaurants can be for anyone skills or no skills, why it is more than just preparing food, how money isn't everything, and lastly why it can be worth it in the long run. The world sees fast food restaurants and right away they overlook them. They don't see the people, commitment, growth, care or work effort in the business that is feeding them. I think this is because of the spot that fast food restaurants have been placed in. A lot of the population might also see jobs at fast food restaurants to be sketchy or embarrassing. Chick-Fil-A is the fast-food restaurants known for their care and hospitality but that doesn't mean that others aren't either or that this is all that matters. I know that someday I will be moving on to bigger things in my life but for now I am willing to keep using what I am given from this job. I want to be a nurse in the future so these skills can help me with that career goal. Learning how to develop my skills and strive to learn will help me in the future for personal and professional goals. So, the next time you order a sandwich, think of the care and the work put into that meal prepared just for you.

Author Notes: I always thought I was an okay writer before taking this course. I think after writing this first essay I've learned how to write more professionally on a college level. The main changes I have made in this essay would be sharing more informative stories to prove my points and give the reader a better visual of what I was trying to say. I have become a better writer from this essay by learning about transitions from one paragraph to the next. I also learned more about punctuation and where to better place them. I am happier with this final revision because it gives more information about me and some backstories of my own experience. Overall, I hope the reader learns something new from this essay.

