Never Had Time for School

Kevin Hayward

Going back to school late in life can be a little unnerving. I can’t compare my high school experience to the classes I am taking now mainly because I have no memory of classes thirty years ago.

I had to leave high school at the age of 15 in order to support myself. Once I started working, there was no time to even think about school. I was working on a farm from dawn to dusk.

Now that I have begun ABE classes, I’ve found it to be challenging although not as difficult as I anticipated, with the exception of having to be in class with so many young people.

The most difficult obstacle I have is that not everyone learns at the same speed and some students are noisier than others without realizing how distracting they can be. Joking around and entering class late are also distractions. Maybe I am not as much of a multi-tasker as the young people, but joking is for recreational activities, not the classroom.

Classes are much harder when you don’t have any interest whatsoever in writing a five-paragraph essay, which I will never do again in my life. Also, what’s the point of learning how to write mathematical equations as if I am ever going to solve our country’s financial difficulties or even attempt to; not likely!

In closing, we’re all here trying to achieve the same goal, to better our lives. With the help and patience of the teachers here at Bristol Community College, everyone has a chance to succeed.

Kevin Hayward was born and raised in MA. His family has a long history of farming and working in construction. Kevin wants to use his background in construction to help him start a home inspections business when he completes his GED. He is a student at Bristol Community College in Attleboro, MA.

Study the Charts

Make up GED-style multiple choice question about the charts on pp. 10-11.

Write a sentence describing the educational requirements that workers like Kevin and Pearl (p. 11) face.