

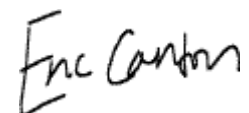
Dear Reader,

People always say that the best teacher is experience and I am now a firm believer of that statement. When I first joined CollegeWorks, I thought I would walk out at the end of the year with a lot of money and a huge smile on face. It turns out I walked out with neither. However, what I did walk out with was something that surpasses what I had expected to get out of this internship.

Collegeworks painting is perhaps one of the most, if not the most, challenging thing I have ever experienced. Not only was production so unsuccessful throughout the summer, but personally I felt like I was a failure and emotionally the stress and anxiety overcame me, to the point that I became ill. Yet despite the fact Collegeworks was a nightmare for most of the summer, I made it to Cancun and in the end as I looked back on my summer I realized that I came out of this whole experience a new person. Even though I made about 3000 dollars, and still had to produce into November, I realized that I had become a much stronger person as a result of this. I learned what integrity, commitment, and loyalty really meant and to this day those three values are huge part of me. I learned that life isn't always a walk in the park and sometimes challenges will come my way, whether I may be ready or not. And that it is up to me to find a way to overcome those challenges, regardless of how difficult those challenges may be. I now realized that nothing is impossible in life if you really stick your mind too, sometimes it just might take longer to achieve it that's all. Although, what meant to me the most, was that I walked into this internship as a 17yr old boy, but walked out wiser and more mature. Without Collegeworks, I'd still be the old boy I was before.

In the end, Yes I would have loved to earn more for all the time, sweat, tears, and blood I invested into the program. However, what I learned definitely surpasses that and I would personally recommend this program to anyone because what you get out of it is worth more than what a few thousand can buy in the short run because at least what I learned will last me a lifetime.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Canton". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Eric Canton