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Professor Ostman

Comp & Lit 2

17 February 2009

Response Paper 4

Draft #1

Question 1 Response To The Road Not Taken

I enjoyed and can relate to this poem of a man who decided to take a road less traveled. The whole poem is about a man who is at a walking path junction faced with the decision of which path to take. One pathway is well traveled while the other remains untrodden. He evaluates both paths and commits to the untrodden path because "it was grassy and wanted wear" (Frost 80). This quote "yet knowing how way leads on to way, I doubted if I should ever come back" (Frost 80) illustrates that he knew it was extremely possible he would get lost unsure if he would ever make back.

This poem is very symbolic of making risky decisions which result in total failure or total success with no middle ground. For example, lets say a CEO of some huge company such as Microsoft must make a huge business deal. When faced with such a decision it must have been like standing at the walking path junction. The CEO knew that should he take that risky untrodden course the company could head on a course of failure costing his career and reputation. He might take the risky path because the worn path is not helping the company, and he has no better solutions.

In my own experience the poem reminds me of when I decided to test out the Linux Operating System (OS) on my computer. The OS is a collection of software that controls your hardware and manages your software. At the time everyone I knew was using the Windows OS made by Microsoft. Myself being interested in computing technologies I researched what Linux is and its philosophy. This decision making process was not easy as swtching OS's is no easy task especially when you have only Internet tutorials for guides. The risks were that I could lose data during the transition or the system

NOTE: Don't get too technical

hmm... sounds funny..

StoBATA road

direction

road

paths

one

led astray

Chief Executive Officer

road

Sometimes taking

Thick and true

is essential

Another words, thinking outside the box of convention

his town is necessary

In a nutshell,

created

Involves

fails and I have no backup. Weighing in on the pros <sup>and risks</sup> and cons of switching was much like standing at the road juncture in Robert Frost's "The Road Not Taken."

Works Cited

Frost, Robert. "The Road Not Taken." Exploring Literature. 4<sup>th</sup> edition. Ed. Frank Madden. New York: Pearson Education, Inc., 2009. 80-81.

- Installing Linux.
- OR
- Being 1st in immediate family to pursue a career in computing.
- OR
- 

RISKS Based on own EXPERIENCE

- unsure where one would end up
  - a step in a new direction not many have taken which may be seen as risky by many
  - willing to risk total failure for the possibility of instant success.
- EX: Oil seeking Businessman buys a piece of land hoping to strike oil there. He buys drill equipment and drills. If he succeeds great! If he fails then is total failure + Broke

Symbolic stuff

Fall

"The roads diverged in a yellow wood"

Comments to taking unchosen path

"Oh, I kept the first for another day!"

aware that the path might lead him astray leaves him doubting return.

"Yet knowing how way leads on to way, I doubted if I should ever come back."

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I enjoyed and can relate to this poem of a man who decided to take a road less traveled. The whole poem is about a man who stops at a road juncture faced with the decision of which direction to take. One roadway is well traveled while the other remains untrodden. He evaluates both roads and commits to the untrodden one because "it was grassy and wanted wear" (Frost 80). This quote "yet knowing how way leads on to way, I doubted if I should ever come back" (Frost 80) illustrates that he knew it was possible he would be led astray unsure if he would ever make back.

This poem is very symbolic of making risky decisions which result in total failure or total success with no middle ground. For example, lets say a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of some huge company such as Microsoft must make a huge business deal. When faced with such a decision it must have been like standing at the road juncture. The CEO knew that should he take that risky untrodden course the company could head on a course of failure costing his career and reputation. Sometimes taking the risky path is essential because the tried and true worn path is not helping the company. Another words, thinking outside the box of conventional wisdom is necessary.

In my own experience the poem reminds me of when I decided to test out the Linux Operating System (OS) on my computer. In a nutshell, the OS is a collection of software that controls your hardware and manages your software. At the time everyone I knew was using the Windows OS created by Microsoft. Myself being interested in computing technologies I researched what Linux is and its philosophy. This decision making process was not easy as switching OS's is no easy task especially

when you have only Internet tutorials for guides. The risks involved were that I could lose data during the transition or the system fails and I have no backup. Weighing in on the pros, cons, and risks of switching was much like standing at the road juncture in Robert Frost's "The Road Not Taken."



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