



Student Government Association

REFLECTIONS ON FRANKFORT RALLY

Name Catherine St. Charles

Phone no. 478-390-2471

February 20, 2008

Classes missed (no. and title) Professor's name

CFS 333 Menu Planning/Purchasing Jane Simmons
CFS 331 Hotel Rest. Mgmt Rich Patterson
CFS 325 Community Nutrition Julie Lee

After a very exciting, energizing and educational experience at the Capitol Building of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, you are beginning to wrap your head around the inner workings of our state government and how it functions.

1. How do you feel that you impacted this state crisis? What difference did you participating in this rally make?
2. What was the most memorable/important part of the experience you had as a participant in this rally?
3. How/where have you acquired the knowledge and skills that are most important for you, as students, to be able to influence the workings of government and the influence the decisions made?
4. What suggestions do you have (for the university and its faculty) that will better prepare you to be effective participants in shaping and influencing political decisions?
5. What could have been done to make your day more effective or productive?

Each participant will be expected to complete this 'reflections' paper. A copy of it should be given to the SGA Vice President before leaving the bus when you return to campus. A copy of your paper will also be provided to each faculty member whose class you missed to participate in the rally.

I feel that the rally was a good start to overcoming the problems ahead if more budget cuts are made. I believe that our presence there made legislators aware that we, the students, are serious about our future educations. I think that every person that showed up to the rally was valued. I was kind of surprised at the low number of students that participated in the rally. Western made their presence known, but we just happened to have loud voices, we weren't known for our numbers. The most memorable part of the day would either be ~~us~~ being stopped by several people at the Capital, not for the rally, a tell us how proud they were that Western

was here to participate, and being able to explain why we were there. Or looking over the balcony to see the sea of people from different schools around the state coming together to represent the same ideas of change. I believe the skills ~~are~~ acquired to be able to influence ~~of~~ the workings of the government can ~~be~~ for the most part be learned through experience alone. You can plan ~~for~~ for only so much but once you are there when the thick of things your planning goes out the window. You have to live for what is happening right then, and once its over learn from that experience for the future.

I think the University could get more knowledge and information out to the students about what is happening at the Capitol. Students are interested in decisions that affect them, but don't know all or even a majority of the facts so they shy away. Having more information sessions around campus I think would be very beneficial. I think the day was as productive as it could have been, circumstances provided. Nothing can be done about the bus not showing. Also, if small groups could have individually talked to legislatures that would have been nice, but very unlikely considering the number of people there. I was very proud to attend the rally and represent Western, and hopefully because I was there to represent a difference can be made.