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College, Religion, and Spirituality

“Laura, are we going to church on Saturday night or Sunday night?” Before I went away to college, there was no question of whether or not the family was going to church, only when we would go. Attending parochial schools from pre-kindergarten to my senior year of high school meant not only going to church every weekend but also regularly during school hours. In addition, I took the kind of religion courses required at a religious school. Because of my upbringing, I always assumed I would go to church on a regular basis, **[error #8; comma splice.]** I can even remember saying that when I moved away to college, I was going to find a church that I liked and go every single weekend. **[I like the way you have set up the topic/issue. You might want to specify the religious affiliation you have with both the church and the religious school. Don’t assume your audience knows it’s Catholic, as other religions might also work this way.]**

I have asked myself many times why I didn’t go to church as often as I should have and why most of the people I know didn’t go at all. **[Can you make a tighter transition into these questions? How did you come to this point?]** Certainly life seemed better when I felt a spiritual connection to God, and attending church only took up one hour a week. Nevertheless, I let my church attention lapse. **[Do you mean “attention” or “attendance”? If it’s “attention,” you might want to say that you let your attention to church or religious activities lapse; letting your “church attention” lapse doesn’t quite make sense to me.]** Chris Burdette of the University of Central Florida says **[Where does Burdette say this, and what’s his or her discussion about?]**, “Statistics show that 50 percent of those who start out religious, fall away from it during

college” (Jacob). Perhaps I am in that 50 percent for right now [**It’s not clear which 50%**

you belong to; please specify], but how and why did I get there? More important, does a change in church attendance necessarily mean a loss of spirituality? In fact, there are many reasons that may account for not exercising one’s spirituality through official church attendance or involvement with religious activities at college. [**What kinds of reasons? Consider expanding by characterizing these reasons and then specify what they are.**]