

## Allen Smith

He sets three alarms before going to bed every work night: 5:30 am, 5:45 am, and the final one is set for 6:00 am. The alarm goes off at 5:30 and he does a quick reflection of his life and how he does not want to go to a job that he loathes. He drags himself out of his bed with no motivation at all sometimes. He honestly doesn't know why he gets up at all in the morning other than going on his morning run. Regardless of how things are going in his life, he always tries to focus on the brighter side of things. His name... is Allen Smith.

Allen is a twenty four year old man living in Richardson, TX. Allen is currently an employee at UPG in Cappel, TX. UPG stands for Universal Power Group. UPG is a battery distributing company that has evolved into a global supplier and distributor of batteries and related power accessories, and a provider of supply chain solutions he said. However, they do not sale to the public. They primarily sale to other companies, which Allen believes to be a not so wise decision. He believes they would bring more money to the company if they sold their product to the general public. His job consists of being a tech support at UPG, if someone were to call with a problem about the batteries; he is the person to contact. Although, he insists he has no godly idea what he is doing when customers call. He feels like his job now is less entertaining than before. Now that he has risen in job title it is if he has gotten less responsibility, although it is commonly the other way around. Allen finds himself sitting at his clean and organized desk with a single phone endlessly waiting for a phone call to give him something to do. He has been working there for five years and some change now. He was not always a tech support for the company. Within his five years of working there he has done many different jobs. He started as an assembly worker at UPG, where he assembled battery packs, kits, and boxes them up. Moving up from an assembly worker his next title at UPG was a charging tech. Allen was responsible for making sure the batteries were fully charged before being shipped from the warehouse. Nowadays he is the only tech support agent for UPG. While he finds himself sitting at his chair starring at his phone he often

asks passersby if there is anything he could possibly help them with. The waiting and wanting to be utilized is absolutely an atrocious feeling for him. This is part of the reason why he does not necessarily see the point of driving to a job that is forty five minutes away, to just sit there in the hopes of someone calling all for his measly paycheck. He gets paid \$12.75 an hour. While only two years prior his hourly wage was only \$7.25. May not sound too terribly bad but he has been at the same company for 5 years plus. The most calls he has received in a single day has been 3 calls, one of which was the wrong number. The other two consisted of asking the customer if they had tried making sure that the battery was properly connected. The batteries in question were indeed not connected, only adding to the pain of not having something to do. After waiting day in and out for these once in every blue moon phone calls. The total three calls he took that day lasted only five minutes in length, at max. Allen feels as if he is underutilized for his intelligence level. Opposed to when he first started working there. When he first started working at UPG he was consistently in motion, which he loved. He was traveling all around the warehouse checking stats on batteries, moving them to and from places with a forklift, and even moving them by hand. Though the work was a bit tedious and hard on his body he enjoyed it though he was only getting \$7.25 an hour. Allen is a very active man

Even after his nine to five jobs at UPG, Allen continues on to his next job delivering pizzas at iFratelli's in Irving. It would not be such a bad gig to earn some extra cash but he is not doing it for extra. He is doing it to make ends meet. He is delivering pizzas from 5 pm until around 11 pm in his beat down 1994 Toyota Corolla. Some days tips are better than others Allen says with a broken smile on his face. Along with the not so nice tips he also has to deal with rude customers often. In the recent weeks Allen has spent over nearly one thousand dollars' worth of repairs to his car with money he does not have. When Allen's shift at the pizza joint comes to an end it is almost usually at 11 pm. Sometimes it is not and that adds on to his forty five minute commute back to Richardson. Allen arrives home between the hours of 1145 pm to midnight. He then drags himself out of his car, beaten down and

bruised from the long work day. He gives himself roughly twenty to thirty minutes before having to be in bed before repeating the same process over again the next day.

Looking back in life, Allen did not imagine himself a twenty four year old man living in the big city working two jobs to just make it by on. Allen is a good, old, down to earth country boy from Lubbock, Texas. Just like some of his friends, Allen had hopes of going to college to further his education, to ultimately to have a nice job and build his life from there. To have a grasp on his own life. However, things did not go according to plan for him. The short time he was at college was short lived, but it did not come without a price. Allen is currently still paying off student loans. While the reasons he had to stop going to school are uncertain and why he would not talk about them will go unanswered, Allen is determined all the more to find his way back to college. Luckily for Allen he does not have any kids nor is he married. So he has ample amounts of time to focus on himself so when he does decide to settle down he will be ready.

In conclusion, Allen will continue to set those three same alarms one day after another. To once again get up the same way to continue the same old song and dance. While it is not his ideal job(s) in any way shape or form and Allen is still uncertain where he sees himself in five years he continues to take the negativity that comes his way in stride with a smile on his face. If there is anything I have learned from the time I spent with Allen, it is to not let life pick at you, it is to roll with the punches, and that it is alright to remember to smile at the adversity one may be facing.

#### Work Cited

Smith, Allen. Personal interview. 2 May. 2014