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Interview

Sabrina: Hi! Thank you so much for helping me with this interview, I really appreciate it. To start, what's your name, age, and major, and where are you from?

Eva: I'm Eva Cass, 19, and a fashion design major. I'm originally from a small town just south of Boston, Massachusetts.

Sabrina: Where are you currently living (the overall area and neighborhood as well as describing the actual dorm or space itself), and what is your opinion of said area and space - considering other places you've lived?

Eva: I'm currently living at the Stuyvesant Park dorms, which is pretty close to Union Square. The neighborhood I love, because it seems pretty calm compared to the other neighborhoods in NYC, but there always is something to do. It's super convenient when it comes to traveling throughout the city on the subway. As for the dorms themselves, it's definitely smaller than most of the places I've lived. I'm in a triple, so things tend to get cramped and congested, but we're lucky enough to have a large common space with a dining room table that can seat most of my friends. It's a nicely sized common area, but in my next apartment I'd definitely want room for a couch.

Sabrina: What, if any, are some special personal items of yours that you brought with you to your dorm from where you're from? Why are they important to you?

Eva: I brought a lot of personal items from home, but most important to me are my photographs. I printed a lot of photos of myself and my friends before I left for school, and they're all hanging up above my bed and also in frames on my desk. They're very special to me because they remind me of the friends and family that I don't get to see every day anymore. I also have a sign that was painted for me by my boss for the job I worked at for most of high school. I worked for a woman who began her own sign business, and working for her for about 3 years taught me so much, and her making that sign for me is a happy reminder of home and of her.

Sabrina: Do you feel that you've successfully given your space a "homey" feeling - based off of whatever "homey" means to you and how you feel most comfortable?

Eva: I'd like to think that my space is pretty "homey." I have a lot of different textures with pillows, blankets, and tapestries that keep my spot cozy and a little less sterile than the generic

college dorm I walked into on move-in day. It is definitely very comfortable, which is important to me, and includes a lot of personal touches in color and photographs that make me happy whenever I walk in.

Sabrina: What is it that you do - including schoolwork, errand type things and other essential tasks on top of what you do in your free time?

Eva: In my free time, I end up doing a lot of homework for my classes. I also am very lucky to intern for a professor I had last semester. But when I'm not doing homework or working, I really enjoy FaceTiming my friends and family back home, shopping, walking around the city, and spending time with my friends I've made here.

Sabrina: What is your favorite food? Have you been able to find it here in Manhattan? And where is your favorite place to eat in the city (could be a restaurant, an actual location to bring your food to and eat, or both)?

Eva: My favorite food is the black bean soup my mom makes after Christmas every year. Sadly, I haven't been able to find anything that comes close to it in Manhattan, unless my mom freezes some and ships it to me of course. But my favorite place to eat in the city is a little French restaurant called L'Express, not only because the food is great but it's where my family always brings me when they are in town, so it's a place with a lot of happy memories.

Sabrina: Diving deeper into the idea of the city overall, do you feel safe when traveling from place to place? Explain.

Eva: I do feel pretty safe when I'm traveling from place to place in the city. When I go out at night I'm usually with a large group, and the subways are always pretty busy at every time of night.

Sabrina: Do you feel that the city has a sense of community? Explain.

Eva: I can find the city pretty isolating at times, it's hard to believe that a city with so many people can leave you a little lonely. But I think that living in the dorms has helped with that, because I have made some really good friends that I don't think I would have found otherwise.

Sabrina: Is there anything that you have found particularly annoying about it during your time here? You can list off multiple things in the case that there's more than one thing - I know I personally do.

Eva: Public transportation (particularly the L train), high rent prices, lack of closet space, people who walk while looking at their phones, lack of any real storage, dirty subway trains and stations, and public transportation unreliability.

Sabrina: Now moving in a more positive direction, what things do you love about the city? Things that are special and unique to your experience here?

Eva: Even though I complain, I can't imagine myself anywhere else. The diversity in the city alone, so many cultures and walks of life all converging in one spot is overwhelming, but amazing. The museums and galleries, and exposure to the arts in general is so inspiring, and every single person seems to be so creative and hardworking, it is really inspiring and makes me want to work harder and do better. I also love the fast-paced nature of the city, it is so energizing. I also love how it's a place people want to come visit, because every now and then I'll have family and friends coming to visit NYC, and it's always amazing to have them come through.

Sabrina: In your opinion, is there anything that can be done to make the city better? Maybe you have some ideas, or know of some current developments that are underway? Consider how ideas for improving the city could come from solving current problems or even emphasizing on some of the things that are already loved.

Eva: I think that improvements to the public transportation, with accessibility and reliability in mind could really improve quality of life and ease to New Yorkers. I also think that increasing the amount, or improving upon public parks and green spaces would greatly improve mental health and allow for more enjoyment of public spaces.

Sabrina: Alright, well, those were the questions I had prepared - again, thank you for taking the time to answer these. That should be all. I hope you have a good day!

Eva: Yeah, no problem, you too!