

Thesis statement:

Despite being in different colleges, my group of friends and I have remained close for more than a decade. One of my friends had completed a four-year biology degree before switching into an engineering program at the same school. After two years into her four-year engineering program, I learned from someone else that she had decided to switch into a new college to pursue a two-year veterinary technology program. My friend was afraid that the rest of us would think her decision-making was erratic, that we would think switching programs would waste her abilities as a capable student, and because she felt she was not obligated to tell us. I am justified in feeling annoyed that she did not tell us.

Support:

When making important life decisions, it is important for friends to let each know, especially if it was one that would have been discovered anyway. When my friend chose to avoid telling us of her decision, this indicated that the rest of us were not as close to her as supposed. I believe this lowers the quality of our friendship.

Secondly, making life decisions like this can benefit from others' perspectives. The rest of us went to the same high school as my friend and knew her interests and capabilities. Hearing her perspective on why she would want to switch could help alleviate her fears about going into a new program, or the judgements of others. I believe she should have been open to feedback when making such an important deciding.

Opposition:

My friend had already switched her field once and felt that switching her field once more would raise questions. She expressed that she was afraid that people would judge her for being too flighty in her decisions, even if she had spent months thinking about the decision. She had done this as last time, she was met with some skepticism in the beginning. This time, she was also aware of the lower requirements for being a veterinarian technologist and thought that the rest of us would think it was a waste of her talents to pursue this career path and so try to talk her out of it. She was mentally exhausted by the idea of having to explain her decisions to us and decided to let us find out from someone else so that it would be easier to bear.

Response:

Although I was initially surprised by her decision, I knew that this was hers to make. A few of us were skeptical of her first-degree switch, though we had all wholeheartedly supported her in the end once we were sure that we could understand her perspective. I think that by not telling us this time, there was no chance for understanding and rather it was detrimental to the friendship.

Keeping quiet would not have prevented us from finding out later, or having follow up discussions with her to verify. Likewise, I think that it would have been more mentally exhausting to let us find out from others, because follow-up conversations included the additional question of why she hadn't told us herself.

Conclusion:

I believe that confiding in each other is part of what makes a strong friendship. Close friends expect to know or hear about important decisions from their friend themselves. When my friend chose to let us find out through someone else after she had made the decision, it signalled to the rest of us that we are not as close we were before, and this can be detrimental to the friendship. While my friend was seeking to avoid the mental load of having to explain her decision, not telling us prevented her from hearing input from people who knew her well and caused her more exhaustion from having to explain why she chose not to tell us as well. Therefore, I believe I remain justified in being annoyed that my friend did not tell us of her decision to switch into a new professional career path. On the other hand, I recognize that, when in a low point in our lives, we humans often make silly mistakes. My friend's decision wasn't malicious, it was made out of fear and lack of self-confidence. So, while I am mildly annoyed, I will nonetheless let her know that I am there for her and ultimately, let the whole issue pass.