

## Personal Narrative Essay

Margie O

April 15, 2024

IDS493

## Personal Narrative Writing

This article explores my life's path, including my academic endeavors, career goals, and life experiences—all of which have shaped who I am and given me a sense of direction. My story is around a redemption journey, which is emphasized by themes of responsibility, progress, and community. I reflect on the critical junctures that have molded my trajectory as I retell events in chronological order that have pushed me closer to my desired professional path as a cybersecurity analyst.

I've always been interested in computers and the way that technology and criminal justice connect. I spent several hours interpreting indicators on our family computer and learned about internet fraud and hackers by clicking on obtrusive pop-ups. This made me curious in protecting not just my family but also myself from these kinds of risks. My curiosity was also piqued by my older sister's extensive involvement in technology and by her exposure to websites like YouTube. At the age of ten, my interest in digital forensics was piqued, which inspired me to learn more about cyberthreats and fraudulent activity.

Even with this early interest, as high school graduation drew near, I was unsure about my future. Clarity didn't start to develop until a previous student came back to speak at our school's college fair and gave some background on the topic of cybersecurity. Their observations on the increasing need for cybersecurity experts and the need of stopping cybercrime struck a deep chord with me. This realization confirmed my lifelong interest in cybersecurity, which I had been pursuing since I was a little child. But even with this increased understanding, I still struggled academically, especially in arithmetic. Having acknowledged my shortcomings in this domain, I had uncertainties on my capacity to succeed in computer science. Despite these challenges, I was able to continue on my chosen route because of the speaker's invaluable advice and the conclusion that cybersecurity is my passion.

## Personal Narrative Writing

I have decided to set aside a noteworthy portion of my journey to honor the difficulties I faced in a few ODU classes. Although calling it exceptional might sound a little strange, that's precisely because of the challenges I overcame and the ways in which they created who I am. One especially difficult time for me was when I was having trouble with coding and arithmetic, which are requirements for several cybersecurity programs. On the other hand, I see it as a crucial stage of my salvation since the challenging schoolwork forced me to mature and learn invaluable lessons. This hardship eventually produced positive results. In addition, during these scholastic challenges, I took advantage of chances to share my expertise by starting a support group for students at ODU who were having trouble with college algebra or coding, and taught coding at a cybersecurity boot camp. Even though I had challenges in my ODU studies, these experiences helped me develop resilience and made valuable relationships with gifted people. This adventure has given me a fresh outlook on who I am and changed the way I assess my talents. I now welcome the difficulties I've encountered, equipped with knowledge gained from previous setbacks, and I'm ready to confidently confront any new problems.

Ever from my early infancy, I have been curious with the topic of cyberspace. My commitment to using the information I've gained from my ODU classes to improve cybersecurity awareness and protect people—including my family—from cyber dangers is a recurrent topic in my personal narrative. I'm currently looking for a different internship to further my cybersecurity knowledge. My objective is to work directly with cyber experts on specific projects, advancing my professional opportunities and skill development. I'm determined to give back to the community by educating people about cybersecurity after I land an internship. My dream internship would be something like a cybersecurity analyst internship.

### Personal Narrative Writing

My commitment to giving back to my community has been essential in helping me develop a sense of purpose and motivation from an early age, which has helped me as I've grown to reach my goals. Overcoming obstacles in the classroom and looking for extra learning materials outside of ODU classes, for example, have been crucial in my path. My life has been a series of varied interests that I've braided into a coherent narrative, starting with having no understanding of cybersecurity and ending with my elder sister introducing it to me, me researching it online using sites like YouTube, and finally choosing to pursue it as my major.

I am appreciative that I have had the chance to write my own story, one that includes both successes and failures and gives my life more meaning and complexity. I want to show through my e-Portfolio how my professional, academic, and personal experiences have given me the crucial knowledge and skills I need to succeed in the cybersecurity industry. My goal is for my e-portfolio to become a valuable tool for students who want to learn more about this subject.