

Writing Assignment Two: Personal Narrative Essay

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Abstract

Life is filled with valuable lessons; these usually consist of lessons that we do not realize hold as much value in our lives until we are old enough to realize. It is not until we look back at these experiences and hold as much value in them as we should. Different experiences also play apart in this, where people grow up, all these different influences all shape who a person grows up to be. Speaking from experience I did not realize how much I have learned from certain experiences until time passed, and I realized the lesson in that experience.

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From a young age I was never much of a school person and more of an athletic individual who could not really sit still to do homework for long periods of time. Learning how to apply myself in school were lessons that I learned from being in grade school and such. I grew up in a more populated middle school and high school in South Jersey in one of the most diverse areas of New Jersey. Being from a diverse high school taught me valuable lessons in how to listen better and understand people better, because they have different backgrounds and different lifestyles than me it made me be more understanding and made me be a better listener. It also gave me a better sense of comfort in unfamiliar places and talking with people that I cannot relate with too much. During Highschool I always wanted to learn about business, not only because it was something I may have wanted to do for a career but also because of how important it is to know those things from a personal financial perspective.

During the time of Covid, I worked in a little sandwich shop in the town next to mine where I was a dishwasher and a delivery driver. This was the first job I ever had, and it was a good introduction to the restaurant world, the high speed always working kind of work. I got to work with a lot of cool people and got to experience new foods that I would never try in the past because of the cooks that would allow me to try these new foods. I also learned how to communicate better with people who may not speak English. I have also worked in a warehouse where I set up lines of appliances for others to deliver them to various towns. This has taught me lessons on organization, and I also have a lot of down time to pay attention to other things like the stock market. It has also taught me how to work with others with heavy equipment, how to do it safely without anyone getting hurt.

My whole life has been filled with sports and most of all baseball. I have played baseball since I was maybe 5 years old, usually this would not be deemed important, but I credit baseball

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to teaching me so many valuable lessons I would not have learned if I did not play a team sport.

While training in high school it became a reality that I could actually play baseball in college, so I got recruited to play division 1 baseball and that was one of the best moments of my life.

Baseball has taught me so many lessons like teamwork, discipline, responsibility, hard work, and other life lessons like waking up early, having a good sleep schedule, being respectful to coaches, even more on listening. However, the biggest thing I credit it with is teaching me how to push myself past limits I did not think would be possible. This lesson is most important to me because it has shown me how to get the most out of myself, which surprises me sometimes. If I want to be a police officer this lesson will be very valuable to me based off of the workout and things I am going to have to do in the academy.

When I was at my first college it was rough in the beginning being away from home and getting used to the flows of the college courses compared to the high school ones. After a little bit college class came easy to me but the hard part was socially it was really hard for me to break out of my shell. After a while my teammates helped me by coming up to me first, invited me out to places and just hanging out in my room to get me “out of the house” but it was hard in the beginning, especially being so far from home. This made me appreciate friendship and teammates even more because it shows who really cares about you in certain moments.

Baseball took up most of my springs and summers in college but in my sophomore year of college I decided to do an internship that was offered through my college prior to Old Dominion. At Wagner college as a student athlete, we were offered the opportunity to do a summer internship where we learned different important career things like resume building and making relationships with other business professionals. While it was fun to learn about these different things and visiting different professional offices, this was really the point I realized this

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was something I did not want to do for the rest of my career and life. Growing up as an athlete made me not particularly fond of the idea of working in an office. This made me think of different career choices, which made me extend a look into the New Jersey State Police because I know a lot of people who were state troopers and absolutely loved their career. It will be good to have a degree as a backup, but I do believe that working in an office will not make me happy. I am grateful that I did that internship because it taught me how to make connections and how to be active in LinkedIn with any career choice that I choose.

Another work experience that I am grateful for is coaching when I am back home. I get to give lessons to kids who want to continue playing baseball as they get older. It is truly one of the best feelings when you give a kid your opinion on what they should do with different baseball styles, and it makes a difference. I also love using the experiences that I had in the past to teach kids how to not make the same mistakes that I made when I was playing baseball.

There are many things in my life that have taught me valuable lessons that will help me shape my future. It is like Celeste Nguyen says in her essay saying “In addition to making sense of the past, students also discussed how they viewed their future. Imagining a desired future creates the possibility for inhabiting an ideal world” (Nguyen 142). This is saying how the lessons learned in the present help shape people's future.

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References

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