

**Personal Narrative Essay**

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### **Story of my life: Personal Narrative Essay**

What a life. I have only been on this planet for 20 years and hopefully have many more to go. I will go over how I got into my field of study and what/who made me into the person I am today. Full warning it is not the most interesting story, not much drama or action, but it is my story and it is special to me. If you are reading this, I am glad you take a bit of interest in me and how I got to this point in my life and I appreciate the time of day. This is my story of how I got to where I am today. Before I can get into my backstory I gotta say, this paper may be a drag to read but just try to pretend like I am telling you all about it in a conversation because it will be worded as such.

#### **Beginnings**

I think it is important to go over how I started as a human so I will go through the early stages really fast and hit some key components along the way. It all started in a random hospital in Virginia, I believe it was in Halifax, where I was born six weeks early on November 21st, 2003. From that point my life already started off on the wrong foot, I was born prematurely with a major respiratory issue, and my lungs were sticking together. This was terrifying for my mom and dad because I was in the hospital for a few weeks without the ability to breathe on my own. They tried everything to fix me but nothing worked, even had to put cow surfactant in between my lungs to try and unstick them but that did not help. The doctors told my parents there was nothing they could do so they resorted to calling the church they were a part of to pray over me. They drew a cross on my head with olive oil and it worked. Do not know how or why, but it worked. All I can do is thank God for helping me out and am thankful every day to be alive because I almost did not make it to this point in my life.

After that went down everything was fine over the next few years, until life took an unexpected turn when I was around three years old and a truck driver took my father's life in a terrible car accident. It saddens me to this day that I did not spend much time with him but it motivates me to make him proud cause I know he is still watching me from somewhere.

Besides some family drama and a divorce that was all that happened in my younger years. I did my best through school and was an honor roll student with a liking for anything that dealt with technology. When I got to high school it really hit me like a truck. I had a class that I do not remember the name of but it was my favorite and is a reason I am writing this paper right now. It was a simple computer course that taught the ins and outs of a computer. It was only an elective but I treated it like it was the most important class of my life. I swear I took more notes in this class than I did in my other classes combined. Not only did I find the course interesting, but I absolutely loved the teacher. He, to this day, is my favorite, most influential, teacher of my lifetime and no one has come close to beating him. I ended up taking as many courses from him as I could because he knew everything I wanted to know. As a kid, I loved video games and game systems and always thought computers were for the rich and were too confusing for normal people. This IT course showed me that computers are some of the easiest things to work on if you just understand the basics. I learned all I could from him at school but then Covid-19 happened and he retired. I had to back away from those classes because there was no one else teaching them and there was not much hands-on work during COVID-19 because of obvious reasons. During that time I was a jr in high school and I started in a program called Govoners school. It was basically a community college that you went to half the day before going to the normal high school. It helped speed up the time I would spend in college by 2 years and gave me the opportunity to graduate with my associates before graduating with a high school degree. This

gave me a great advantage when going to Old Dominion University because it took care of most of the general ed that is needed for a bachelor's degree.

### **College Life**

This is where my college life started, as a computer engineer major minoring in computer science. It was my first semester at a college way bigger than the small community college I had been to before. I was living in the Gresham dorm because I submitted my living request late and was nervous to be far away from home. This semester was the worst time of my life. I am hot-natured and Gresham had little to no AC so I would never be able to sleep, my courses were super challenging because I decided to take the 400 lvl classes in my first semester and I learned that math was not my strong suit anymore. Physics and differential equations were the death of my interest in math. I ended up failing most of my classes due to my lack of understanding and almost gave it all up. Then, I decided to switch majors. This was a risk because I was on academic probation until I got my GPA up and did not want to mess up like I did in the last semester but it was the best choice I ever made. I switched to cybersecurity after hearing my roommates talk about it a lot and I saw the potential in it. I would still be able to use computers and learn more about them while also learning about coding, hacking, and criminal justice. This second semester was a breeze and made me love cybersecurity. I was able to do things hands-on and a lot of the courses I took were online or hybrid so I could go home on the weekends to get a reset or even travel to other schools to see my friends. This was a big difference from my first semester at college. The next two semesters went by quickly and now I am taking the last three courses I need to graduate during the summer due to that first semester not counting towards anything. While taking my last few courses, I am also working full-time for Direct Line as a

cable technician. I even work with my favorite high school IT teacher who pointed me in the right direction. I could not be happier about where I am today and how I got here.

### **Conclusion**

I am very thankful for the people who helped push me past my limits and taught me that it is okay to not get it right the first time. Without the mistakes I made or the problems I have had, I would not be who I am today and I would not be as happy as I am. Though bad things happen, there is always something on the other side to reach for. I am very happy with my upcoming degree and am proud of my career. Without the terrible first semester I had at college, I would not have found such a great profession to strive for. Without my high school IT teacher I would not have strived to go for a technological degree. And finally, without my family, I would not be here today.