

Writing Assignment Two: Personal Narrative Essay

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### **Abstract**

My decision to go from healthcare to cybersecurity was motivated by a desire to secure digital information and combat cyber threats. I've developed strong technical skills through hands-on projects and my position as a Help Desk Technician at Old Dominion University. Participating in the university cybersecurity club and obtaining certifications such as CompTIA Security+ and Digital Forensics have also added to my knowledge. I'm excited to have a career in threat analysis and incident response, with the goal of making a significant contribution to cybersecurity and creating a safer cyberspace or digital environment.

**Introduction**

In elementary school, I remember the excitement of receiving my first computer. Although I didn't immediately become a computer enthusiast, being exposure to technology played a big role in where I am today. Growing up, I was more drawn to the healthcare field, I inspired by the idea of helping people directly, which in this case physically. However, my educational and career path took a turn after I graduated from high school and enrolled in nursing school at Old Dominion University. I was dedicated to a career in healthcare, but after my first year of college on the nursing route, I realized that I wanted to pursue something else. As I explored different fields, I discovered cybersecurity. As I learned more about the consequences of cyber-attacks on society, I felt driven to help with these risks. This led me to choose to pursue a degree in cybersecurity.

While researching a new career field, I became aware of the growing number of cyber-attacks on healthcare institutions. This showed how important it was to protect patient information and ensuring compliance with HIPAA regulations. Realizing the importance of cybersecurity in healthcare solidified my decision to change my career path. Although I'm no longer pursuing a traditional healthcare role, I understand that my skills in cybersecurity could be invaluable in protecting confidential documents and maintaining regulatory compliance in healthcare environments.

**Understanding The Field**

While studying cybersecurity at Old Dominion University, I have been taking courses on a number of areas, including network security and digital forensics. I'm have been learning about

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different types of cyber-attacks and the tactics used for defense against them. Practical projects, such as vulnerability testing using Nessus and establishing response strategies, has enabled me to use theoretical knowledge in real-world situations. Courses such as Network Security Fundamentals, Introduction to Digital Forensics, Introduction to Cyber Crime and Cyber Law have provided me with the knowledge I need to understand and tackle complicated security issues. Through these experiences, I'm learning more about the importance of strong security measures and how to efficiently implement them.

### **Work Experience/Internship /Skills**

My experience as a Help Desk Technician at Old Dominion University has helped me develop my skills. What began as an internship became a part-time job, which has allowed me to obtain hands-on skills while continuing to earn my degree. In this role, I am responsible for making helpdesk tickets, fixing software and hardware issues, and giving user instruction to help them with technical issues. One of the most important parts of my job has been addressing network connectivity issues and assuring our systems' security policy.

Working at the help desk as a technician has helped me to apply what I've learned in my cybersecurity classes to real-world circumstances. Each day, I deal with a variety of technological concerns, ranging from simple password resets to more complex issues such as network problems.

This has helped me develop into a well-rounded IT technician capable of managing a wide range of cybersecurity issues. I've also learned the importance of confirming and verifying identities, which is important in preventing cybercrimes. For example, during a phishing attempt at the

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university, I needed to immediately verify the identities of affected users and secure their accounts. This experience demonstrated the importance of strong identity verification or security systems in protecting against cyber threats.

### **Organizational Help**

Old Dominion University's on-campus cybersecurity student organization (CS2A) has been a valuable resource for me as a cybersecurity student. This organization has been extremely helpful in finding internships by providing advice on applications and interviews. They also help members understand complex tasks by breaking down challenging concepts into parts. Participating in the organization has allowed me to take part in fundamental coding challenges, which have helped me improve my programming skills and apply what I've learnt in class. Additionally, being a member of this cybersecurity group has provided opportunity to network with cybersecurity professionals and peers. This networking has been helpful in getting insights into the field, learning about new advancements, and creating connections that may lead to future career opportunities.

### **How Do I Stand Out**

Getting certifications such as CompTIA Security+ and Digital Forensics Certification has been important to my growth in cybersecurity. These certifications demonstrate that I have a solid understanding of security and forensics. They add to my minor in Cybercrime and believe it will make me more desirable to prospective employers. My Security+ certification displays my knowledge of fundamental security standards or concepts, whereas my Digital Forensics Certification demonstrates my ability to investigate and analyze cyber incidents effectively.

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Together with my Cybercrime minor, these qualifications provide me with a good basis for both defending against and responding to cyber threats. They also demonstrate my commitment to keeping up with industry standards. These qualifications make me an excellent prospect for a cybersecurity position.

### **Career Aspirations and Future Goals**

My goal to become a cybersecurity professional comes from my passion for technology and a strong desire to protect and help people and their information from cyber threats. I enjoy the challenge of detecting and preventing security breaches, and my experience in digital forensics and cybersecurity has allowed me to do so. I want to focus on threat intelligence and incident response, where I can apply my problem-solving skills to protect networks, systems, and organization. In the long run, I see myself being a senior cybersecurity analyst or consultant. To get there, I plan to continuously learn by pursuing advanced certifications such as CISSP and CEH, as well as staying up to date on industry trends and technologies. I'm also working to improve my leadership and communication abilities so that I can effectively manage teams and projects. I also hope to make a meaningful contribution to cybersecurity by assisting organizations and individuals in strengthening their defenses against ever-changing cyber threats.

### **Conclusion**

Reflecting on my journey, I can see how each step has helped me get closer to my goal of becoming a cybersecurity professional. From my first interest in healthcare to discovering cybersecurity, every moment and experience influenced my desire to protect sensitive information and assist individuals in staying secure on the internet. My studies at Old Dominion

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University, combined with hands-on experience as a Help Desk Technician, have given me an academic understanding and practical skills. I've learned how important it is to be cautious and proactive in the fighting against cyber threats, whether it's protecting network connections or confirming user identities during a phishing attack. Being involved in the on-campus cybersecurity organization has expanded my experience by providing support, guidance, and opportunities for networking. Obtaining certifications such as CompTIA Security+ and Digital Forensics Certification has also increased my expertise in the cybersecurity area. Looking ahead, I am excited to continue developing and rising in my field of work. I am committed to lifelong learning and professional development, with the goal of making an important contribution to cybersecurity. I aspire to contribute to a safer digital world for all.