

Narrative Essay

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## **My Narrative Essay**

### **Introduction**

First of all, let me introduce myself; I am Nathaly Flores, a senior at Old Dominion University. My major is Cybersecurity. I will finish my bachelor's this summer and continue in the Fall semester of the 2022 Master of Cybersecurity graduate program at Old Dominion University. My recent finding of satisfactory work in the department of cybersecurity program done by the staff and alumni has motivated and convinced me that pursuing my graduate studies at Old Dominion University meets my personal, academic, and professional objectives. My experiences are written and explained chronologically as to why I chose this career path. I see the importance of coherent narrative while taking this course; it increases one's self-understanding. For this reason, I will be documenting my academic work and life experience and reminiscence on the accomplishments that made me who I am today.

### **Before Starting my Major**

Before choosing my career path, I had an associate degree in Medical Administration. Being a single parent of two did not open doors for me. I had no clue about what Cybersecurity does or did, much less know the concept of Cybersecurity and how hackers use it to their advantage. I did, however, grow up with technology using the website or playing games like Stronghold Medieval without knowing; I learned how to cheat the game. There were cheat sheets that taught you step by step to become more powerful than you were before. I became very intrigued by what a hacker does, and I want to know how to use it to my advantage. To my knowledge, a hacker was someone who penetrated a company's firewalls but did not use it to deceive a simple game.

## Writing Assignment: Personal Narrative Essay

A few years ago, I was recently introduced to information technology and Cybersecurity by my younger brother, and ever since, it has made a significant impact on my life. I believe that Cybersecurity will grow with different types of technologies and threats each day.

I did not have anyone explain what a cybersecurity person did in school or college; technology was not a big thing until now. My brother started IT at a young age and seeing him do what he did with a computer being able to create and defend computer networks and fix them. He was my encouragement to learn more about Cybersecurity, so I started checking YouTube videos to understand how Cybersecurity relates to other IT jobs and how everything comes about and how critical Cybersecurity is to us. I would like to know more about cybercrime because of the hike of scams that have been going on since technology grew and the countless people that have fallen to these scams and be able to do something about it. My focus is I would like to work for NSA/DHS government to defend against cyber-attacks and learn how to hack with an elite group and make hacking tools. My other interest is to work for NASA and be part of their defense team as a Cybersecurity Analyst. As stated by McAdams, "human beings, as intentional agents, act on their desires and beliefs to accomplish goals." My brother's encouragement and persuasion helped me decide I wanted a career in Cybersecurity; I wanted to make a difference, not just for myself but for my family. I saw how much of a difference it made in my brother's career and wanted to do what he did.

Another thing that drew my awareness is the lack of cybersecurity experts, which helped me decide that I wish to pursue that career. Although I am still learning more about Cybersecurity, I can't say I am an expert because I am not, but everything requires education and reading. But with that knowledge, I desire to protect my children from cybercrimes and for them to see me as an inspiration, and maybe someday, they will follow in the same footsteps.

## **My journey**

When I first started ODU, I struggled with math in 2019; it was a long time since I took a math course. I remember my professor's words of encouragement never to give up on your dreams, even how hard they may seem. My main weakness is not to fail my family or my kids but to put all my fears aside and always have confidence and courage that I will succeed in my career path. Math has never been my greatest strength; instead, it was history; I had a math tutor for a few months; he helped me and pushed my weakness into success. I was able to finish my math class and learn that if I put my all into it, I would succeed.

This struggle had to happen; it was essential for my growth and led to optimistic results, which led to applying for the Cybersecurity SFS Cybercops Scholarship and being accepted into the program. I am grateful to be part of Old Dominion University; this year has been a blessing; I will finish this summer with my bachelor's and will pursue my Masters in the fall semester. As I struggled previously with my math classes, I learned how to persevere, and I am thankful for those who have influenced my life. My academic, energy and work experiences have helped me acquire critical thinking, leadership, and strong communication skills and grow as an individual. Thus, my struggles shaped my character and how I hold myself (Nguyen, 2013). I am thankful for the battle I overcame. I am ready to overcome any more difficulties in my future because of the skillset I have obtained from past experiences and the courses I have taken thus far.

## **My Experience**

I have a passion for Cybersecurity and the concept of hackers. Referring to McAdams (2001), my sectoral consistency in a personal narrative as a recurring article would be the

## Writing Assignment: Personal Narrative Essay

decision to help my family defend themselves against cyber-attacks and offer safety to others and awareness of cybercrimes and scams. Through the learning I gained from courses taken at ODU and YouTube videos. I did an Entrepreneurship class, and my research paper was about romance scams. I have meditated if people are aware of the importance of Cybersecurity after taking several courses at ODU. I am bound to help others and offer my knowledge to others to understand the importance of Cybersecurity from the studies and experiences I have gathered from my classes at Old Dominion University.

## Conclusion

I want to help others be aware of the importance of knowing Cybersecurity and giving back to others. In my generativity, it has helped me maintain the direction to succeed in my goals. For instance, passing all my general classes, including my major courses, is necessary, and utilizing YouTube videos to learn more rigorously about Cybersecurity to become a Cyber analyst in the government field. My life is a sequence of occurrences that have achieved meaning when composed in a narrative (Nguyen, 2013). I am grateful for the chance to initiate my chronology marked by good or bad and share it with everyone, which has molded my life to live with more motivation and ambition (Smith, 2017). My E-portfolio will depict the development I have obtained with my courses, work, and life ventures which have helped me get excellent knowledge and vital abilities needed in Cybersecurity.

## References

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