

**Personal Narrative Essay**

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### Abstract

*This paper is a retelling of my academic, work and internship journey from the beginning to the present. I will be taking a look back at all of the highs and lows that has taken place that has shaped me into the person I would later become.*

### Elementary School

Not much can be said about my early years of school, as there was not much going on in terms of academic achievements. At the time I didn't like school and I wasn't that good at it. All though, I do remember that in the first grade I was recognized for being really good at counting money, but it wouldn't be until I was in the third grade when I would start making a conscious decision to try and improve at school. During the third grade I was struggling with my reading and writing skills and I was starting to receive outside help form different learning facilities, but it wasn't enough. I would be dropped from my advanced classes and put into regular classes as a consequence. Because of this I ended up being picked on by other kids and the teachers around this time would emphasize the importance of learning and one of the teachers by the name of Mrs. Jenkins would be a notable teacher in realizing my potential along with the encouragement of my mother. From the end of my third-grade year and throughout the rest of my time in elementary school year I would achieve honor roll on all of my report cards.

### Middle School

After graduating from elementary school, I headed off to middle school, eaged to see what awaited me. Throughout my time in middle school, I would make tons of friends, play the alto-saxophone for a year in the sixth grade before switching over to percussion in the seventh, and go the entire three years making honor roll and even scholars list within my eighth-grade year. It was truly a blast and I would meet some people that would become lifelong friends in the process. During the end of my eighth-grade year my English and Government teacher would recommend me advanced classes at the start of high school. At that moment I was as happy as I could have ever been as it seemed like my goal had finally been reached. But over time this happiness would fade to indifference.

## High School

When I entered high school, I would sign up for our high schools marching band, playing within the pit (percussion). During my ninth-grade year I was excited to see how my advanced classes would fare in comparison to regular classes, only to be disappointed that the advanced classes were really easy. To me the advanced classes was what the normal class should have been the entire time. Ninth grade would come and go with me obtaining honor roll on every report card again, however it was around this time when I started loss interest in school. Tenth grade would come, and it was during this time when I was placed in AP history, after being in advanced history for only a year. I would turn 16 years old at this time and would start working at the home depot, where I work even to this day (eight years later). Tenth- grade was a stressful time for me, working, learning how to drive, doing AP history, and marching band all at the same time, would leave me with no time for myself and my grades would drop due to this. In fact, this could be the first year in seven years where I didn't get honor roll on all of my report cards. I decided that I would drop myself from all AP courses the following year to give myself a lighter load. Eleventh grade was easy enough, taking lighter classes allowed me to relax more and have a social life, which causes my grade to go back up. Twelfth grade would come, and I would get an internship with the school's IT department, repairing old chrome books and leaning a little bit about manual computer repair. They never had a concise schedule and would just show up when they felt like it, so I also would intern in the machine class that a few of my friends were in and see how they would do their projects while helping them out a little. I would graduate from my high school in 2018 with an advanced diploma, before heading of to community college.

### Home Depot

At the age of sixteen I would begin working at the Home Depot as a part timer. I would work in the garden department for a short time, before being moved to lot and during this time from 2016 – 2018 I would gain employee of the month before moving to the hardware department. From 2018 to the present I would be certified to work within sales associate position within the store and receive another employee of the month award for pulling multiple shifts, working both morning and night shifts that lasted for a month.

### Community College

I would start community college in the end of 2018, to a pretty rough start. While taking general education classes, I would do poorly during my freshmen year, and I was put on academic probation. However, things would pick back up during the fall of 2019 as I was doing really well in my classes and I was actually enjoying myself. I would finish off that semester with mostly A's and I would start the following semester pretty strong as well. However, this was 2020 and COVID would close the schools down. During this time, I had to learn from home, which was very difficult for me due to it not being in a controlled environment. I would take summer and fall classes to try and finish my associate degree on time, However, his would be all in vain, as the stress that came with adapting to an online learning environment and juggle work at the same time put quite a bit of stress on me. I would take time off from school at the start of 2021, in the hopes that I could get my mind back in order. I would spend the time working non-stop and doing things that interested me, until one night in march of 2021 I would find all of this as a waste of time and would go back to school during the fall of 2021 of they had in person classes. They would, and during that fall I would graduate with all A's and one B and finish my associates degree.

## University

In the fall of 2022, I would embark on a new chapter at Old Dominion University, finally being able to pursue a major in cybersecurity. Achieving a GPA of 3.75 within a year and a half of being here, I am poised to graduate within the coming fall of 2024 with a bachelors in cybersecurity and a minor in cybercrime. Within the coming spring 2025 semester, I am planning on pursuing a master's degree in cybersecurity.