

Personal Narrative Essay: An Inside Look at Sam Garwood

Sam Garwood

Old Dominion University

IDS 493

Professor Andrews

Opening

Ever since I was young, I had always been a curious and creative person. No matter what the school project was, I knew I had to make something I was proud of. This also applied when it came to things like gift giving and working on personal projects. One of my greatest qualities has always been having big dreams and a huge imagination. I believe this developed a sense of urgency when it came to things, I was passionate about and wanted to get better at.

Most people I knew had these qualities but were more likely to either give up or put whatever they were doing off if there wasn't a solution. However, I personally have always found a need to complete anything I start even if it is something I don't enjoy. Most times things that interest take priority, but this doesn't stop me from accomplishing my overall goal. This is one of my best traits in general given that it shows the determination I possess. This determination allowed me to accomplish many things that I am proud of. I always try my best to help someone else if I can.

Build up

This is directly correlated with my academic performance as a student at Old Dominion. My time at ODU was spent trying new things like learning a new language, studying physiology and literature, and working on projects that reflect my learning. All of these represented a strength.

which was to take on a lot of new challenges at a time while ensuring that I am able to learn in doing so. I also have found that my productivity has improved significantly during my time in college which overall made me a better learner. Another thing I had found interesting was that my productivity was influenced by my interest on the information being taught.

Given that I realized this, it made sense as to why my more recent semesters have been the most successful and productive. Taking classes that have a lot to do with my major helped to build this interest and I was able to learn more while caring about what the content. Most people I have spoken to have have similar experiences and I think it gave us a sense of excitement for our future careers.

Problem

An issue that I have come across in my learning is just not having a lot of motivation to do work that does not have much to do with my major. This did not stop me from completing my work and studying but it affected my grades negatively. I was more likely to get Cs in many of my classes due to this lack of motivation and I didn't find the same passion I did about other things. However, this wasn't always the case for my classes, especially if they were electives, I was interested in. When taking a music class I did significantly better than my literature course because the information was better laid out and was more interactive.

Considering that literature is one of my favorite subjects I was surprised by my results. Most of my work also shows a lack of interest if the class is a last minute pick or last option. If there was a class that I would say fell victim to this, it would be my film appreciation class. I love films but the assignments that came with it didn't help me to understand the art behind it or

add on to it's enjoyment. However, I do think if I had to retake any of the classes of which I felt this way, I would most likely try to mitigate this issue.

Solution

The best thing I could do to solve these problems would be to make more time for my work by completing the more interesting tasks last. This is because I recognize that they are more productive than other classes. Something else I thought to do was to keep track of more assignments that I was more likely to forget. These assignments being the ones I am least interested in, it would likely help to keep track of them rather than to forget entirely.

I also learned about a website that lets me know about a professor before I sign up for them. The website is called "ratemyprofessor" and it includes a large list of professors for a course as well as a rating. This would help to find a professor that overall suits my needs and prevent from making my learning more challenging than needed.

Conclusion

I have developed a large variety of skills during my time as an undergraduate and seek to build my skills in my field of study. I really enjoy working on new topics, projects, and my overall experience in cybersecurity. My biggest challenge has been finding interest in things that I do not enjoy but I have found it very helpful to improve my homework schedule and productivity to mitigate this. My life began with big dreams and continues on while I move closer towards my career.

