Research Narrative

My childhood was one long “research” project where I learned to enjoy learning and eventually led me to pursue science. Growing up I, unlike most other kids I knew then, did not do much running around and sports outside of school. I spent my days on the internet playing flash games and watching YouTube on my computer and channel surfing.

However, one day while I was lazily channel surfing, I stumbled across a channel called Discovery Science and the show MythBusters piqued my interest. That show flipped a switch in me somewhere that made me crave learning more, so I started to spend more of my time on that channel. From there I stumbled into the show How It’s Made which showed me that there is more to love than just science, from there I knew that I would join the STEM field in my future. My newfound desire to learn led me to many other shows that I watched even if they were only tangentially related to science and eventually led me to start watching PBS Nova documentaries. Soon after I ran out of documentaries to watch and the various TV shows that I loved started to simply be reruns of older episodes that I had already watched and so I was on the prowl for more to watch.

Throughout all that, I never stopped messing around on the internet and wondered if I could find more to watch on YouTube. Lo and behold I found exactly what I was looking for on YouTube, who would have known! I had stumbled upon a channel called SciShow, a channel that created many videos over a large range of topics in science. As my desire to know and learn more grew, I made my way to a channel quite similar to SciShow albeit a little more focused and school like, I had found my way to CrashCourse. At CrashCourse I would spend my free time watching and learning various topics from biology to engineering, from economics to world history.

All this learning from all the TV shows and all the YouTube videos undoubtedly led to me perform better at school which led to praise from my parents which all fed a virtuous cycle that fostered my desire to learn. My long so-called “research” has ultimately helped me develop a desire to learn and an ability, I think, to pick up concepts faster than my peers.