9.00p.m. A Slack notification from my boss. He sent me a few documents and proceeded to ask me to make an official risk assessment draft that was to be submitted the next evening.

The clock struck 1 a.m. I had been staring blankly at my laptop screen for the past 3 hours.

Brainstorming was getting nowhere.

When applying for this internship, I thought of it as a learning experience where my superiors were going to give instructions and teach me along the way. That was not the case, however.

I was on my own.

I remember so vividly, typing hopelessly on the search bar “steps of establishing a risk management framework”.

Identify, assess, mitigate. Seemed easy enough.

I got all the information I needed from that google search. I drafted all the input but implementing it was another issue on its own. I consulted with my boss and my mentors to make sure that I was doing everything right.

I stared at my clock again: 10 a.m.

Still 5 a.m. in Berlin.

I could only talk to my boss around 2-7 p.m. Assignments were often given late at night past my bedtime. Initially, I thought the different time zones across the world was going to be the biggest communication block.

However, a point came where there was no line to “office hours” for me. I found myself staring at my computer screen and working whenever I was awake. Still trying to stay optimistic, I kept forcing things upon myself. As the workload started to increase, it felt really exhausting and I was on the verge of giving up.

“Organize your schedule in Google Calendar then” one of my colleagues told me. Slowly, I was able to adapt and work around my superiors’ schedules.

Everything felt in sync as I could start to see the finish line—I had compiled one of my earliest drafts.

A few Youtube videos, a suitable template and a lot of consultations with family and friends in the same field. That was all it took for an inexperienced high school student to be able to establish a risk management framework: something usually done by experts with years of training and education. After just about a few days into my research, I was able to learn the different terms used in banking. Another week in, I was able to compile my own Credit Acceptance Policy. This moment of realization that there are endless opportunities out there prompted me to take on more risks and challenges.

From personally advising juniors looking to start their own online conferences, initiating multiple informational online blogs to organizing associations for like-minded people virtually, I have since actively sought to share my experience with others, in hopes of showing them just what the internet has to offer if they do take that leap.

I remember thinking: “had I searched this a few years ago, there wouldn’t be any useful information”. Technology has exponentially grown to show that learning has no limits. When if not now? In this age when technology is making learning easier than ever, I realized that experience does not guarantee expertise.

With technology right under our fingertips, having the wealth of knowledge in the palm of our hands, I felt privileged to be born in a generation that has the power to tackle just about anything. Going forward, I realized lack of experience is something that doesn’t daunt me—it shouldn’t. With this mindset, I knew that there were countless opportunities that I didn’t want to miss out there; it was my starting line.

I look back on that google search, a reminder that my journey to phantom the unknown is ahead of me. I found myself in yet another seemingly impossible task as I close my eyes, adrenaline rushing though my veins: game on.

Hi Celina

Though this essay seems like the basis of a great story, it’s still somewhat doesn’t answer the prompt you have chosen. The current state of your essay is 80% narration, which doesn’t really contribute much to answering the prompt of the essay when you only leave 20% to explain why you realized that the internet was an important tool for your research and learning. Moreover, the topic of the internet being a useful tool to your learning isn’t a very strong moral/focus of the essay because the internet’s usage as a database of information is pretty much trivial knowledge. AOs want to see a deeper level of realization of who you are or what builds the person you are today. The ending paragraph of this essay is also a bit vague because as a reader myself, I’m not really understanding what “seemingly impossible” task you have.

That’s most of the comments I have on this essay because despite being a very interesting topic, “realization that the internet is a great way to learn” is not a very strong base for your essay. I’m sure that you have other experiences and realizations that are much more meaningful than this one, and I can’t wait to see that in your future essays.

I’m looking forward to the development of your essay. Should you have any questions about my comments, please contact your mentor so I may be made aware of them and answer them appropriately.

* Calysta Tesiman, ALL-in Essay Editor