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COMM1313-SEC013

Story With a Point Outline

Topic: Don’t procrastinate

General Purpose: Tell people not to procrastinate

Specific Purpose: Tell people not to procrastinate using a story of me procrastinating

Thesis Statement: Procrastination is a slippery slope. It builds on you. It can bury you in homework.

**Introduction:**

(Gain attention) – Procrastination is a defense mechanism that people use when they’re afraid of failure.

A: Explain this using the sources you found, Tara.

(Develop rapport) – Previously, I thought: I don’t care. I procrastinate every day of my life. The above fact can’t persuade me to not procrastinate, basically. It doesn’t change anything.

(adapt point to audience?) –A: How many of you guys have procrastinated on an assignment? All of us, right? How well did it work out?

(Transition: Orient the audience/significance of story) – Obviously, procrastination doesn’t work out most of the time. At best, it stresses you out; at worst, you can end up in a vicious, terrifying cycle of backed-up homework assignments. Allow me to tell you about my last year of high school, otherwise known as The Worst Year of My Life. (cliché, change later or something)

**Body:**

I: So I took Differential Equations in high school.

A: I know what you’re thinking: “oh man what an overachiever, what a nerd!” NO. This was the hardest class I’d ever taken. So hard, in fact, that some nights, I really didn’t want to touch the homework for it.

II: Most of the time, (in true procrastinator fashion!) I didn’t start the homework until that night, at midnight. This was some heavy homework, so I didn’t finish until 3, normally.

III: Homework was due every night. One night, just ONE NIGHT, I didn’t do my homework.

IV: Basically, the next night I did the late homework and not the homework that was due the next day.

V: This just kept happening. For a while. Like, the whole rest of the class. Half a semester. Just awful.

A: Mixed in with the rest of my homework for my other classes, it was horrible.

VI: I eventually got caught up when the class ended. I passed the class with a B, but at what cost?

A: Stress every night. STRESS EVERY NIGHT.

**Conclusion:**

(Review point) – The definition of an addiction is something that is comfortable, yet detrimental to other parts of your life. This, I feel, basically describes the allure of procrastination. But even though it’s really, really enjoyable, we *have* to use it in moderation. It’s dangerous.

(Make a final appeal) – Whatever you’re procrastinating has to get done eventually. As a wise person once said to me, “Everything becomes instantly more terrifying and difficult the more you put it off.”

(Provide completeness: closer) – Learn from my mistakes, you guys. Just do at least some of your work ahead of time.