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Personal essay

The life that we are living today is full of drama and experiences. The experiences that we pass through in life, whenever bad experience or good memories, it all leave some remarkable marks which can always be learned through memories. When I was teenager, I had some bad habit and absent attitude in life and study. The habit was too criticized by my teacher and my parents used to advise me to work hard in school in order to become an independent person but I lived a “don’t care” life. Then, I experienced a bad event that made me to learn some lessons and change my attitude.

One day, it happened that I was going back to school from home since the holiday break had come to an end. My parents gave me enough pocket money as usual and gave me enough shopping to take me through the term. My mother escorted me up to the bus station where I could board a bus to school. I found my schoolmates and classmates waiting for a bus to board to school and I too joined them. We waited there as we shared stories of how the holiday break was. A bus came like after one hour whereby many of us struggled to board in vain. It was announced full and the excess was asked to wait for the next bus. I did not want to go to school either. No sooner had we waited, than a beautiful black car approached. A lady came out of the car and asked us a certain direction. I explained the direction to her but she seemed not to

Commented [LR-F<1]: We often want to begin essays like this with a general statement to set up our experiences. But beginning with a story, or an image, or a fact can be far more powerful – it’ll get readers interested, and if you describe events clearly enough, you might not even need to give them that general statement – they’ll figure it out?

Commented [LR-F<2]: Try to be more specific in the theme – the “so what.” The personal essay tells us about your life, yes – but it isn’t just about that. This event and how you responded to it will likely offer you and readers some specific insight – something that they might be able to apply to their own lives.

Do be sure to sit down in the WRIT Center with a final draft (or submit it through their online service if you can’t make it to campus). Writing isn’t all about the mechanics – but you do want to keep working on correctness issues, and provide as polished a final draft as you can.

understand. Therefore she asked one person to come with them and show them the direction and they promised to give a free ride to school and some money. My friends shied off and criticized that they were people with intentions and that our teachers had warned against following strangers and free gifts. I volunteered to show them the direction and the lady smiled and walked with me to the car.

Commented [LR-F<3]: A lot happens in a single paragraph. Think about important shifts in your story – and give us a new paragraph when those occur.

We took off from the waiting bus park and all I could do was to admire the good looking car and the company of two young looking men and one lady. They asked me a few questions about the direction of a certain shopping where they wanted to go and the distance from the shopping mall to school. I replied their questions without hesitating. We reached the shopping mall where the lady got out to buy some stuffs and came back within a short while. When she came back, she gave me a bottle of soda and a piece of bread which I ate happily. The three people started smoking all of a sudden and that irritated me so much. I could not imagine how those good looking people could smoke and I started feeling insecure. We took off from the shopping mall but to my shock, they took another direction and I was left agape. I was then ordered to keep my mouth shut and all I could do was to sleep.

Commented [LR-F<4]: This must have been very scary – and readers will be shocked when it happens. Slow down and tell us how you felt, describe their demeanor – how they acted. Did you feel threatened? Why? If not, why not?

The three fellows started talking in a different and funny language that I could not understand and I regretted why I followed them. I regretted why I did not hearken to my friend's, teachers' and parents' advice. I felt that I was in danger but I could totally do nothing to help myself out of that weird situation. All I could do was to sleep. I woke up when it was around 7pm and we were in a place I could not understand. Then, they argued over who was to be left looking at me for the first two to go and

take supper. They argued that I was helpless and could not go anywhere. So they locked me up and disappeared to the dark.

I waited for around 15 minutes and after I was so sure that they had disappeared, I took my school bag and kicked the glass with my two legs. I did not care whether I got injured or not. I ran until I saw some light in a petrol station. I found a middle aged man whereby I narrated to him the whole story. The man quickly opened for me a small cupboard where he locked me and warned me to stay silent as he called the police. He gave the police the number of the car and all the details pertaining the three people. The car came in the petrol station with the broken glass and he urged the police to hurry up. I could see them from an opening in the cupboard and they all looked frustrated and confused.

It did not take time and the police flooded in the petrol station and the three people were arrested. I came out from the hiding place. The news spread all over and the following day, my parents together with my teachers and a few classmates came to see me. We all headed to court and the three people were found guilty. I was taken back to school and everybody was eager to know the whole story. I was congratulated for acting up wisely.

From that experience and event that happened in my life, I learned a very great lesson in the hard way. This experience is worth writing about because it shaped my life. I came to learn not to trust anyone in life and to always think twice before I act. I also learned to always listen to people's advices and not to rely on free gifts. Above all, I learned that hard work is the only key to success and that; there is no good thing

Commented [LR-F<5]: The events you describe must have traumatic. By drawing out and telling us a "lesson learned", a lot of that impact is lost. Show readers the mistake you made and its consequences.

Overall, slow down and bring in what you can of how this felt – and describe the people, the events, in a way that conveys that to readers. The essay is very cool and objective right now – but this must have been a horrific event. It might be hard to dig into those feelings – but readers need to feel at least some of them with you.

that comes easily. From that day, I changed from a 'don't care' character into a cautious person.