

My paper started as a chore and a struggle to say the least. Once I switched my topic to something personal and meaningful, I enjoyed writing. I wanted to sit and spend time on my paper. My zero draft has a lot of the same points stated in my final copy because I knew what I wanted to get across from the get-go. I had my mom edit my first draft, along with my partners, which in my mind, was a big help. From my first to second draft, I feel like I simply changed spelling and grammar errors because I didn't have too much other feedback. Although, I knew my paper would have to be lengthened. Marie Foley, a good friend of mine, peer edited my second draft, along with my partners. S

opened my options and helped me find 'next level' by going into depth and le

There are many faults I possess. I thank God every day for spell check a topic. I don't think I am an extrovert. I believe I can do something positive

my best to look at the good side of bad situations. I think My paper tells about the bad experiences I have gone through these last couple of years. I then reflect on how I am thankful for them because they've made who I am today.

I want you to give me the grade that you think I deserve. I am the student and I feel like I have done everything to this piece that I could to make it the best it can be. Since you're the teacher, I think it is a hundred percent your choice on my grade. All I can tell you is to keep in mind that I put a lot of time, emotion, and thought into my piece. I am technically reflecting to myself but I want everyone who reads my paper to get something from it as well. I would think

Mr. Schrevers -
I decided to not have a title. I think a 'cliche' title could possibly take away from my paper. Thanks!
-Bailey Knobbe

...ive criticism that per to the
3 points for her!

tain words. I OK
est time finding

interests me, I copy person. I try

per depicts that.

Period 7

OCT. 3, 2013

Cool. I'll respect this as I can

that most people would get from it that everyone experiences bad things but if you focus on the positive side of everything, you can find true happiness.

Going into high school I had no idea what to expect. At the time, I thought the next four years of my life would be all fun and games. I knew my ~~freshman year~~ ^{freshman year} courses would be harder than any I'd taken up to that point, but that was a given. I admit I wasn't aware I would hang around the wrong crowd, make stupid decisions, or have my heart broken all before senior year. I never would have guessed these past couple of years could change me so much for the better. I've learned to appreciate my struggles and I truly believe God works in mysterious ways.

Starting at the bottom, ~~freshman year~~ ^{freshman year} was a hard transition for me. The halls were filled with new faces. All of a sudden I was an awkward freshman with no friends. I wasn't sure where I belonged yet. For that reason, I tried out for the Pius X volleyball team. I was so excited when I found out I made the team. ^{Then (Use a trans. word)} The long nights began. I wasn't used to teachers who expected so much or homework that took so long. Hours and hours of homework after returning home from an intense volleyball practice with the famous Mr. Moore was exhausting. High school wasn't what I pictured to say the least. I wasn't prepared for the changes that occurred so quickly.

~~Now~~ ^{Now} when I reminisce about my freshman year, I'm thankful for those late, painful nights. I wouldn't be as disciplined as I am today without Mr. Moore's teachings. I learned so many important life lessons from playing volleyball at Pius. I wouldn't be as responsible as I am today without the constant flow of homework, which has taught me to stay on task. I wouldn't be as strong as I am today without all the stress that overwhelmed me on a daily basis, which has taught me to stop and appreciate the blessings that surround me.

Sophomore year I decided to quit volleyball and all of ~~the~~ ^a sudden my schedule was filled with excess free time. I began to hang around the wrong crowd. I was surrounding myself with people who didn't care about my dreams, goals, or accomplishments. I partied a lot and didn't

I missed it
shift to
reflection
I like
that

care what others thought of my actions. My family and friends constantly reminded me of the wrongs I was doing but I decided to shut them out. I didn't want to believe I was going down the wrong path or hurting others. Slowly, my relationship with God deteriorated. I truly thought nothing I was doing would affect me. I got caught up in all the things that won't get anyone anywhere. Without even knowing it, I started to lose myself. I stopped caring about those who loved me, I gave up on my studies, didn't do any chores at home, and constantly fought with my parents. As I thought my life was coming together, it was all falling apart.

wonderfully put.
It wasn't until the summer before my junior year of high school ^{when} I realized what was happening. My boyfriend and I broke up due to both of our stupid decisions. ^{that} I wasn't expecting to hit rock bottom like I did. I completely lost it. My partying 'friends' didn't care ^{that} I was distraught. I'm sure they were ^{more} worried about their plans the next weekend or where they would get the alcohol. At that point, I realized I was the same way. I worried about things that shouldn't matter and I didn't care how others felt. When I came to reality after my heart was completely torn, I knew I was never happy with my partying life. I masked my feelings with an incredibly unhealthy lifestyle. I felt I had nowhere to turn but knew it was no one's fault but my own. I had distanced myself from my parents, true friends, God, and everyone else that loved me.

I needed to start over. I had to open my heart, forgive myself, and attempt to live a happy life. I went to church, prayed, and talked for a good two hours asking God for the courage to walk away from the negativity in my life and to lead me in the right direction. I couldn't raise my head to look at the cross. I was too ashamed of who I had become. I knew I wasn't worthy of forgiveness. I had never felt so disappointed and low in my life. At the end of those two hours, I felt surprisingly relieved. I had a sense of positive energy and strength for the first time in a long while. I knew that I could become a better person and I had a desire to help those who I love

*You flood with the whole piece
personal
detail - and
you do it without
negativity
Bran*

*Wow
I'm
If I
find the
wonder
keep
reading
that's*

*A beautiful
yet painful
detail*

become better people as well. I became aware of the changes and apologies I would have to make. I wanted to find myself through God and better my life.

Now when I think of the troubling situations I have experienced, I am not full of hate or guilt. I am proud I could walk away from the negativity that engulfed me and be able to surround myself with positive people with meaningful goals. I learned that ultimately loving is forgiving, which is easily the most important lesson that I have come across. My boyfriend and I have grown so much individually, which has brought us together again. We've set higher goals for ourselves and we're following the path that God has set in front of us. Sometimes I reminisce about my life and I am filled with happiness because if I never hit rock bottom, I wouldn't be where I am today.

Avoid the same exact phrase

Hitting rock bottom allowed me to form into the person I am today. Junior year was my healing year. I became closer to God, my family, friends, and my boyfriend. I resisted the temptations of my old ways and got into a healthy routine. It wasn't as easy as it sounds, but I knew it was worth it. I prayed and prayed and prayed about my mistakes, but mostly about my future. My life was a completely different story and I was in control.

great shift

Without these struggles in the past couple of years of my life, I wouldn't have learned the important life lessons that have put me on the positive path I am today. I wouldn't have known what true love is because I wouldn't have experienced that loving someone is forgiving them. Without hanging around the wrong crowd, I would've never found the right crowd. Without making stupid decisions, I never would've known the right decisions to make. Most importantly, without my heart being broken, I would've never experienced love. I am grateful for my struggles because they've structured my whole being and have made me a better person today.

*Great series of juxtapositions
They hit stress
can you
you're
mountain
before.*