

Personal Statement

'How did you solve this numerical? No one else has. And you've used a completely different method. Good. Just keep that laziness in check'. So said my High School Physics professor with a sarcastic grin.

The year was 1998 and I had solved a tricky numerical in the mid semester examination.

Riding on spectacular academic success in school, I had too much faith in my abilities like most guys at seventeen. I conveniently ignored the instruction on perseverance. Instead, I chose to take comfort in the lazy man's adage of *success is not achieved by early risers or hard workers but by lazy people trying to find easy way to do the same job*.

The instruction came back to haunt me when the final results for High School put me in the category of good performers, not great. Six years later, I was enlightened on the paramount importance of introspection when I read of Renaissance in medieval Europe. Experience truly is the best teacher.

Bitter experience taught me an important lesson and it became a defining milestone in my life. Having good ideas is not even half the battle. It's the execution that matters. Taking a concept to its logical conclusion requires stubborn persistence and adaptability – the hallmarks of winners – because the devil makes his presence felt in details and practical roadblocks.

Although I realized this very late, my romance with concepts and innovation had begun early in life. My parents raised me in the good-old-fashioned, no-nonsense manner. And yet, they encouraged my spirit of enquiry and let me solve my own problems. I also had to fight my own battles!

I found my school to be my second home. The work culture was based largely on common sense. Sports were compulsory. And physical work was not looked down upon, as is the case in this part of the world. The Principal was a retired military officer whose standing edict to teachers was: *inspire students to write in their own words*.

Soon, the best inside me flowered. Grade 9 and 10 added to my lateral thinking when the Geometry teacher gave loads of homework. After

excellent academic performance at the school level, I did not do justice to my skills in high school.

I finished my graduation in Mechanical Engineering without failing in any written, oral, or practical examination. But not before my free-thinking often got me into confrontations with seniors. Here I learned, sometimes you have to stand up for your beliefs – if you want to be counted.

During seminars and paper presentations in the final year of graduation, I discovered my flair for articulate presentations and coherent organization of content. While hunting for a job, I tried my luck at a part-time content writing job. Then, this was a largely unknown field and I looked upon it only as a makeshift arrangement.

They say *every man has only one destiny*. I found mine in content writing. Naturally, I am interested in creatively innovative tasks. Content for engineering breakthroughs, resumes, cover-letters, profiles, marketing-copywriting, and reports-whitepapers are my favorites for they make me reinvent myself.

And yes, I haven't forgotten my Physics professor's directive on perseverance!
