

Enno Miranda Narrative

Scientia Potentia Est: My Personal Experience with Education and Depression is precisely that; an illustrated representation of my relationship with education as an adult. I grew up in Calgary, Alberta, and as a young child, I was very imaginative and loved to read, often receiving praise for my creative tendency. However, as is not uncommon, by the time I hit high school I had grown distant from these passions, and my time was largely spent ignoring schoolwork and making excuses in order to pursue what I was actually into; at that time, ski jumping (as a side note, Calgary boasts the only ski jumping club in Canada). Then, as explained in the submission, I began to fall into a depression, for which I was clinically diagnosed slightly after my eighteenth birthday. At that point in my life, the distraction of sport, and my declining mental health as a result of neglecting any other interest outside of it, left me feeling very estranged from education, and I felt that pursuing university was a near herculean task. Fortunately, in my last semester of high school, I had an absolutely wonderful English teacher, who showed such attention and passion in her work that I was inspired to start reconnecting with my old interests. Things came to a head when she had my class read the absolutely amazing play, *Wit* by Margaret Edson, which quite literally changed my life. I remember I had finished reading it on a plane, and had to put on my sunglasses to hide my tears, so moved was I by the ending. Both that work, as well as the influence my teacher, really began the process of my overcoming depression, as it made me realize the ability of knowledge and education to empower the individual; the more I learned about the world, the more I learned about the human experience and human psychology, the more I was able to put my own difficulties into perspective. As a direct result of that influence, I'm now pursuing an English degree at KPU, and I hope one day to teach high school myself, and continued progress in the fields of writing and literature analysis are making me feel like I'm finally living up to the aspirations the younger version of myself once held. It is very important to me that the cycle of education and inspiration continue throughout the coming years; I cannot wait to one day be a part of it. Though the worldwide impact of education is much greater and more beneficial than my single experience, I feel like I have the most authority to speak on my own lived experience, and am glad to share my personal story.