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There comes a time in our lives when we make mistakes. Sometimes they are so small they are not ever noticed, and sometimes they are so crucial they will alter the paths of our lives forever. As a senior in high school, I entered into a deep decline of moral character. I had to learn the hard way that drinking and partying excessively can impact life tremendously and cause an abundance of unnecessary pain.

using strong intro

When I was a teenager, I believed I was immortal and nothing could touch me. I was invincible and could do anything I desired. It all began in my senior year and progressed after that. I made new friends, and they were not the best people. I began to drink all the time and my grades suffered. I missed school so much it was a miracle I received my diploma. But nothing would compare to the devastating events that lay ahead. I sunk into a downward spiral so ominous that everyone but myself noticed it.

think is Intro (get to the story fast)

One day near the end of senior year, I went on a massive drinking binge. I drank and took pills all night into the morning without sleeping. After driving up the street in the afternoon, I began to fall asleep at the wheel. All of a sudden, the windshield cracked and spider-webbed before my eyes. I had hit someone's mailbox and knocked it right over, completely demolishing it. Terrified and intoxicated, I drove away. Never did I stop to think that mailbox could have been a person.

where w/ whom?

- at that moment (but now)

home street?

Soon after that, I was fired from my job at PennDot. I went up there drunk for my paycheck. By the end of the year, I had totaled my car after nearly driving off a bridge in a

important to remember that nothing is impossible, and no matter how bad life can become, it can always get better.

DRAFT COPY

- + commas
- * Coord. conjunctions don't start sentences
- * focus could be stronger by focusing on a single event
- ex: the day you woke up / your 'moment of clarity'

ans. 45.9
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