

Braeden Johnson

Ms. Stein

English 12A Period 6

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### **Better Late Than Never**

7:13 AM. The alarm rang out in the young man's room for the third time, as Luka slowly rose up from his daze. He jolted up from his bed as he realized the implications of him hitting snooze. Luka had a meeting with investors in the restaurant business, because as with many young people, he had a dream. His dream was to start a restaurant, however, he had to be in Portland from Standish in thirty minutes and there was only one thought on his mind. "I'm gonna be late."

#### **Distraction**

Luka springs out of bed. Rushing to his closet, he yanks out his freshest options. These ended up being dark, pleated dress pants, a bright white button-down shirt and a deep, blue blazer. He debates on whether or not he should wear a tie, and in the end decides on wearing it, despite not remembering how to actually tie one. As he hops out of his room, putting on his second dress sock, he looks up to the hallway clock. Seeing that it's already been five minutes, he anxiously hurries out to his kitchen and remembers what he always heard when he was younger; "Breakfast is the most important meal of the day!" Luka pops a bagel in the toaster, starts putting on his shoes, and begins looking up videos on YouTube on how to tie a tie. Ding! After two minutes, he gets awoken from his anxiety-ridden spiral to remember his breakfast. He snatches his bagel from the toaster, slathers on some butter, and exits his house with a half-tied

tie and a burnt, buttery bagel in his mouth. The most important meeting of his life is in 20 minutes, and he lives thirty minutes away.

### Safe

Luka jumps up from his bed, and rushes over to his closet to grab the posh clothes that he'll need for his meeting. For some reason he grabs a tie as well, despite his father not being there to tie it for him. After five minutes of digging through his closet and hurriedly dressing himself, he exits his room. All of the lessons he's been taught in the past flood into his mind, and is remembered by a growl that breakfast is the most important meal of the day. Although he would have loved to eat that breakfast, there simply wasn't enough time to make it nor eat it. The smart decision was made to have a glass of milk, just enough to hold him over. He carefully ties his shoes and grabs his keys. He also ditches his tie on the kitchen counter, as he knows it isn't smart to try and tie one while driving. He enters his car, takes a deep breath, and sets out for his meeting. He knows he's going to be late, but remembers another lesson; "better late than never."

### Distraction

As he raced down the street, Luka began trying to wrap his tie around his neck and through the little loop, disregarding safety he sped down the winding roads. He kept anxiously glancing at the clock in his car and fidgeting with the radio station, trying to find a song that would try and calm his nerves. The more he checked the time the more his worry increased. His head was spinning just as fast as his tires. As he flew down the road he felt a growl in his stomach, when he remembered the bagel he brought with him. Whilst reaching to the passenger seat to grab his bagel, he accidentally moved the steering wheel. This small movement proved to

be detrimental at the high speed he was moving, and his car began swerving across the important yellow lines. Luka jerked the steering wheel to try and get the car back into his side but this was even more problematic. He was abusing his breaks and the screech of the tires reflected this. The car was spinning out of control, and shifting in and out of lanes. Bright lights began barreling towards the vehicle. At once the car was spinning no longer. Luka crashed head on with a tractor trailer. All momentum was stopped immediately. Unfortunately, just as sudden as his car stopped, his life would follow the same fate. The promising young man would never have the option to try out his dream, or any other parts of his youthful life.

### Safe

Although he was nervous, Luka did his best to remain calm as he drove to the meeting. He already had done good jobs to eliminate any distractions, as he put his phone in the glove compartment and decided not to have the temptation of a radio station. This meeting could change his life forever, and did not want to put it in any more jeopardy than he already had. As he cruised down the roads, Luka got lucky. All of the lights at the intersection were green. Those green lights ended up being crucial, as when he finally made it to Portland, he was right on time. His time of arrival had eased his heart and nerves, and Luka went into the meeting with determination. Impressed with his composure and his business ideas, the investors loved the young man. They gave him a blank check, and within just a few months Luka would be living out his dream, and would be very successful. He would always remember this day, and one of the biggest lessons he would keep with him was that it is better to be late than never.