“I have roughly two weeks to write two essays that are 750 words each and one that’s 250 words.” At the time, it felt like as impossible of a task as keeping a pterodactyl as a pet. Amanda Byrd had little, if any, time to write with her schedule the way it was, working from 8:00 until 17:00 every day then preparing for the next day before going to bed. The weekends were all she had.

The next week, Amanda returned with a smile on her face. “I got everything done except one of the 750-word essays.” As the week breezed by, she began to panic. Friday arrived sooner than expected, and Amanda had not finished her essay. The hours dwindled. Writer’s block had set in more than a few times.

At midnight, she finished her essay. She feared that her entry would be late, but she sent it in anyway.

One week after the Crusade had ended, Amanda received the email stating that her entry was graded.

Greetings, I am Amanda Byrd. I can’t describe the amount of stress I felt as I went through training, a tour of a large, maximum security prison, and the Crusade. I wanted to impress everyone in and out of the DB with my performance, especially with a leadership position within the club. I also cannot describe the sense of pride that washed over me as I sent my last entry in. With the amount of time I had available to write, I have sent in two fiction entries and participated in the Special Forces runon. I hope I was able to show people that no matter how they do, participation matters above all. Showing up to work matters above all. Just getting up and doing something is the best thing anyone can do.

In darkness,

Amanda Byrd aka Saronyx