

The Phases of Cleaning My Room

SE

I often find myself stuck at the corner of my room because there is literally no space for me to move around, thanks to the trainwreck my laziness leads to. It is during times like these when I decide to take up the insurmountable task of cleaning my room.

While it usually takes a whole day till I can see my own reflection on the floor, there are several phases involved and if you are a sloth like me, you just might relate.

It mostly starts with an overwhelming dread about the colossal amount of work that needs to be done. I sit on a pile of dirty laundry that smells like a week old chicken cheese burger with ketchup, hopelessly looking for a place to start. Daunted, I seek help from wikiHow and after an hour of browsing through a plethora of articles on how to clean up a terribly messy room, I feel like I finally got this.

After another two hours of reading completely unrelated wikiHow articles and learning how to make dresses for puppies even though I do not own a puppy, I remember how I got here in the first place and rush to get started only to slip on a bunch of colour pencils randomly scattered across the floor. Ignoring



the terrible pain in my back, I decide to start by putting the pencils back where they should be.

My productivity reaches a peak in the next few hours and I zoom around the room, tidying up the mess it once was. The piles of unwanted papers and stink-

ing clothes shorten as they make their way to the dustbins and washing machine, the books lying around find themselves dusted and neatly stacked on squeaky clean bookshelves, the fish tank gets cleaned and I pat myself on the back for not having procrastinated my time away. I

feel so elated to have cleared at least as much space for me to walk through, I decide to take a snack break which lasts much longer than a typical snack break.

Soon enough, I realise working with an over-full stomach makes the working part more difficult but nonetheless, I go ahead to clean out the messier and scarier parts of the room, also known as my drawers and closets. For the first time ever, I finally understand what my mother means when she says I have more clothes than I need as a gigantic ball of clothing items tumbles right out of the wardrobe when I open its door. I then sort out the clothes into two piles: to be kept and to be given away, clean out the drawers containing the cosmetics I bought two years ago and never got around using. Somewhere in between all this, I wreak havoc for a while because when I placed my hand inside of a drawer, I was sure I felt something move.

In the time span of twenty four hours punctuated with numerous snack breaks, procrastination breaks, finding-an-old-soft-toy-and-going-down-memory-lane breaks and I-can't-do-this-anymore breaks, I finally lie down on my newly made bed and think of my accomplishment. My room has never looked more brand new and my life has never felt so under control.

Nailing a Rochona

MYAT MOE KHAING

In a usual Bengali second paper exam, we allocate a period of 45 minutes to an hour for writing an essay. However, by the time you're done with everything else, you realise you have only half an hour left. If you have more time, you have my respect.

Here is how most of us nail it anyway.

Stand out

If you study the previous years' questions, you will get an idea of topics that may appear this year. You might think you have the freedom to choose from five topics. Hold on. Abort your plan of writing on "Wonders of Science" because everyone else will.

You probably got away with writing the same essay at your pre-test and test exams. But remember, warriors today have equipped themselves with memorising entire essays on "Digital Bangladesh" and "Natural Disasters". Your "Wonders of Science" will just lay amidst the pile of scripts containing essays on the same topic and you'll be wondering, just wondering, forever.

Give birth to a unicorn

Let the world know that you're full of life and

are vibrant. Use the time you get between getting your exam script and question paper to draw double lines with the brightest sign pens. When you write the title, use a blue gel pen. Underline the heading of each point with green, blue, purple inks. Repeat.

The psychology of selective attention is best understood in trying to impress the examiner. Grab their attention by highlighting the quotes and the keywords you use. In no time, your script will turn into a unicorn emitting a rainbow.

Pro-tip: Don't use red. Don't get yourself killed.

Get yourself quoted

I remember struggling to come up with a quote for each season when I had to write an essay on "Beautiful Bangladesh". "Amader chhoto nodi", the poem, was my only saviour. I quoted different lines of it while describing different seasons. Describing the struggles of cows crossing the river in monsoon was my favourite part.

