



■ EDUCATION ■

THE ART OF LAST-MINUTE ASSIGNMENTS

ANICA BUSHRA RAHMAAN

It's a random Wednesday night for you. You either shift between Netflix and obscure YouTube rabbit holes or doomscrolling, doing everything possible except pretending to care about your assignment that's due the next night.

You get a text from your friend that says, "Hey, have you started? This essay is really testing my patience." Your heart sinks, nerves suspended in time. The audacity of her not to start the assignment on the due date! Why is she not wasting time like you, accompanying you in your dedicated procrastination? You brush off the text. Last-minute pressure has never failed you (pun intended), and it won't do so now. There's a very good reason why you continue to procrastinate.

The next evening, you finally feel the hues of panic ushering in. You open the assignment file. A 2000-word essay. To be completed in five hours. Meticulous research. Citations with an annotated bibliography. Yikes. Has the time finally come where you learn a lesson about the importance of time management?

With a tinge of guilt, you visit your dear friend, ChatGPT. Upon seeing it concoct the most ridiculous of citations from thin

air, unabashedly making up facts, and fabricating numbers as it goes, you quietly close the tab. Dread creeps in. The AC is on, but you feel a sweat trickling down your spine.

You're on your own. And you're out of time.

Soon, tabs bloom across your screen like a palette, disorderly yet unambiguous and aesthetic. Any bit which is relevant? Copy-paste. Rewrite. Copy-paste. Rewrite. You refuse to look at the clock. You cannot afford to. The adrenaline rushing through your fingertips sustains you to keep writing, or well, paraphrasing.

Over the next few hours, you throw yourself into your craft. What is food? What is a sip of water? What does a moment of rest feel like? Like an artist driven mad by his genius, you are consumed with the urge to create. After all, an artist always has a muse. For many, it's heartbreak or grief. For you, it's six cups of coffee, chaos and a deadline which keeps looming in.

At last, you see a shape, a pattern; the essay has a structure in that it somewhat makes sense. Abstract art and all that. It will do. Finally, a glance at the clock. 21 minutes till the deadline. Maybe you'll make it. The citations with the wretched annotated bibliography remain. Citation

generators come to your rescue, like always. As for the annotated bibliography, you write a bunch of perfunctory nothings just to get the job done.

There's no need to review if your essay has been formatted correctly, or even to take a look at the plagiarism percentage. There's no time, actually. God will take care of the rest.

Precisely three minutes are remaining when you realise you don't even know the Turnitin credentials. At a speed which would put the Flash to shame, you find it and log in. The only thing making your body function at the moment is a sheer adrenaline rush.

Right at the cusp of 11:59 PM, you hit "Submit" with shaky fingers, a racing heart, and a frenzied stillness. You did it. And this is exactly why you cannot bid farewell to the beautiful functionality of procrastination.

15 minutes later, your phone alerts you to a Google Classroom notification: "New Assignment" from another course.

Here we go again.

Anica Bushra Rahmaan offers a monthly glimpse into her life through this article. Relate to her through anicarahmaan@gmail.com

Using AI efficiently and ethically

Artificial intelligence (AI) is now a daily companion in student life. Used thoughtfully, it can enrich one's understanding and save time; used carelessly, it risks turning learning into mere output. The key lies in balance: treating AI as an aid, not a shortcut.

SMARTER, PERSONALISED LEARNING

AI can adapt to different learning styles, offering summaries, visuals, and tailored explanations. It helps students sift through dense material, identify key ideas, and revisit difficult sections—making study more efficient without replacing the effort of reading and thinking.



PLANNING, FEEDBACK, AND ACTIVE STUDY

From generating study schedules to offering instant feedback on essays or problem-solving, AI keeps students organised and responsive. Tools like flashcards and quizzes break complex topics into manageable parts, encouraging active engagement rather than passive consumption.

ETHICS OVER CONVENIENCE

Over-reliance on AI as a "quick fix" can weaken creativity and critical thinking. Ethical use means engaging with the material first, verifying outputs, and ensuring the final work reflects one's own understanding—not the machine's.

BSRM
THE ONLY STEEL FACTORY IN BANGLADESH TO RECEIVE THE
GREEN FACTORY AWARD 2025

FCP/RTOP1/25