

This is my actual first draft  
that I wrote and asked my mom to edit,  
I then wrote the "first" draft I turned into  
class.

Donald Guy  
Magnet English 10 1B  
9/20/2005

## The Slumber Struggle

"It's time for bed Donald!" "I don't want to go to bed." "Too bad, you have to get up in five hours." "I'm not even tired," [Tries to hide a yawn]. Does this scene sound familiar to you? Well it does to me; this is the scene I share with my mother or father every <sup>night</sup> ~~not~~. Why would I do this? For the answer I turn to statistics. It is estimated that the average person in the U.S. sleeps eight hours a day. When this is combined with the average U.S. life expectancy—77.6 years, that means each person sleeps about 226, 592 hours in their life. To me this seems like a lot of wasted time; when you consider the average task takes about two hours to complete that's 113,296 tasks that you'll never complete. So what is my point here? I don't like sleep.

I'm not debating the biological need for sleep, as that is not debatable; what I am doing, however, is resisting it. It might be inaccurate to say I have something against sleep itself; it can be quite restful and fulfilling. My real distaste is for the ~~fact that sleep occupies~~ <sup>the forces of fatigue which</sup> time I would ~~rather~~ <sup>force</sup> much rather spend doing something else. This year, due to my course load and other responsibilities, I have a large amount of things I have to do that I would be hard-pressed to justify as enjoyable. These tasks along with time I spend in school fill most if not all of my waking hours. Due to this fact, <sup>were</sup> where I to follow a regular sleep schedule, I would often have only the weekends to go after things I consider "fun" (although a sardonic person might be quick to point out that, due to my particular set of interests, "fun" is just a slightly less structured variation of "work"). The key clause in the previous statement, however, is **"where I to follow a more regular sleep schedule,"** and as the wording suggests, this is not the case. This causes a problem for me, because ~~even such a great individual as myself can not avoid~~ <sup>my pet peeve is</sup> the merciless campaign of the snooze soldiers.

Take this week, for example. Though I managed to be fairly "caught up" by Sunday morning through an extra long armistice with the forces of sleep on Saturday evening, the peace was short lived. On Sunday afternoon all seemed peaceful on the front as I finished my obligatory paperwork. Then, suddenly, when I thought I had finished it a message arrived in the form of a note scribbled in my planner (or was it from "Homework Live"?), and thus began Operation: Folder Adornment. The battle was long, but finally when the smoke cleared I stood victorious. Thus exhausted from my struggle I collapsed into my cot and slept. The following day as usual I awoke at 0630 hours and reported to the academy for my training. At 1440 or so,

Donald Guy  
Magnet English 10 1B  
9/20/2005

this fact the K-9 unit on watch signaled several false alarms. When the officers finally returned to base I went to sleep. Today while at the academy, and later filling this report I have been constantly assaulted by battalions of Snoozers and not to scare anyone, but the rumor is that if we don't get <sup>our</sup> <sup>es</sup> ~~are~~ defensive up well tonight, tomorrow they are bringing air support. So you may be asking why I am complaining, this sounds like the account of any soldier in the War on Biological Processes. The fact is these extended periods of conflict tax my abilities greatly and the only way to hold them off is to build greater defenses. If I take the time to build such emplacements, however, I am left with no time for R&R.

What is a poor soldier to do in this world? I have almost no time for fun because of my need for work. I spend all day doing paperwork and all night working on emplacements. The only true solution is to leave my intended study to join the Corp of Engineers, but it is what I really want to do. At this point in my career it is probably too late to make a change, but still there are times I wish I was more distant from combat. Maybe I should have just stayed in the band.

69.5  
74.76