

MAKE THE CHOICE:

PREPARATION OR PROCRASTINATION

WHICH PATH LEADS TO THE BETTER RESULT?

Option 1

DAY 1
Get the assignment, go home, review the book, think about your impressions of it, and take notes. (30 minutes)

Option 2

DAY 1
Get the assignment, go home, and think, "I've got plenty of time."

*** ASSIGNMENT:**
Your teacher assigns you to write a paper, due in two weeks, on a book your class just read. What do you do?

DAY 4
Look up passages in the book that support your ideas about it. Add them to your notes. (45 minutes)

DAY 13
Late in the evening, remember your assignment. Quickly try to form a mental summary of the book (which you don't really remember very well). Skim through a few pages of the book to see if something jumps out at you. Look up facts and quotes. Write a few half-remembered ideas from class discussions. Stare at your document, with no clue how to connect all the material. Write more. Constantly check to see if the document meets the required length. Momentarily consider changing the font size and line spacing. Repeatedly cast your bleary eyes toward the clock and put your face in your hands, feeling stressed. Type a hasty conclusion. Print out the paper. (150 minutes)
Go to bed late.

DON'T SPOIL YOUR FUN

"Procrastination . . . is the thief of our self-respect. It nags at us and spoils our fun. It deprives us of the fullest realization of our ambitions and hopes."

President Thomas S. Monson, "The Lighthouse of the Lord," *New Era*, Feb. 2001, 8.

WORK HARD

"Be willing to work hard to achieve [goals]. Develop self-discipline, and be dependable."

For the Strength of Youth (2011), 40.

ILLUSTRATION BY BRYAN BEACH