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Speech

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The Cold that Lasted for Two Years

I. Introduction

It was a cold winter day in February of 2003. I was sitting in my master's class sneezing and sniffing and being asked why I was there contaminating the rest of the class. I have never had such a terrible cold in my life, and as a student, I was not one to miss class (Attention Getter-capturing incident), so I chose to be there, not realizing what would come of this cold. I am sure there are many people who feel the same as I. You hate to miss school because it takes too much to try to play catch-up (Audience Relevance). This is the way I felt having to be in the class for 8 hours for two days on a weekend (Credibility). I suffered through the weekend without realizing that this simple cold was not so simple. It ended up being a cold that would take a toll on my life in different ways for the next two years (Thesis).

II. Body

A. The day of class (Saturday)

1. Watery eyes
2. Blowing nose
3. Coughing

B. Monday morning

1. Called doctor
 - a. Sinus Infection
 - b. Placed on Antibiotic
2. Couldn't taste or smell

C. Days later

1. Cold was getting better
2. Still could not taste or smell
 - a. Called doctor
 - b. Said it would be fine
 - c. No change

D. Weeks and months later

1. Still could not taste or smell
2. After 7 months
 - a. Taste became distorted
 - b. Smell became distorted
3. Doctors had no answers

E. May 2004

1. Taste and smell specialist in Washington DC
2. Made appointment

3. Drove to DC
 4. Met with sketchy doctor
 - a. Files everywhere
 - b. Equipment as old as he
 5. Three days
 - a. Testing
 - b. Medication
 - c. Went home
- F. Six weeks later
1. Whiffs of smell
 2. Still distorted
 3. Pregnant
 - a. No more medicine
 - b. End of treatment
- G. Pregnancy
1. Still distorted
 2. Had Zoe
 - a. Suddenly could taste and smell
 - b. Some things still a little distorted
 3. No problem since then

III. Conclusion

It has now been almost 10 years since this first happened. The fear of losing my taste and smell was extremely depressing. To this day, however, what my daughter, Zoe, does not know is that she brought flavor into my life again. I lost my flavor for life and having Zoe changed that. She added flavor, both literally and figuratively. The cold that lasted for two years ended up being treated in a way no doctor could have ever prescribed. I have Zoe to thank for that.