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My Least Favorite Pastime: Cleaning Venetian Blinds

I think it is safe to say that I am the only student in Honors English III that has chosen to write their paper on the dull and tedious (yet character-building) task of cleaning Venetian blinds (by hand, with an old rag). This is something that I must do annually around the month of August. In a certain room in our house, we have six eight-foot-wide by five-foot-long blinds which require cleaning off once a year. Each separate blind contains close to one hundred horizontal "mini-blinds". Also, on each blind, there are six different sections of these "mini-blinds". In case one wonders how many times over the course of my "hell week" I must run my hand over an extremely thin piece of aluminum, ^{PO} it comes to a total of around 3600. I get arthritis just thinking about it.

I pride myself on having a unique least favorite pastime. Others might choose something like going to Grandma's for Thanksgiving dinner, or having to wax a limousine. Not me. If someone wants to build up their hand strength, chances are that they will go and buy one of those plastic hand-flexer contraptions. I don't have to do this. I just grab an old rag and a blind and I'm all set.

Most people, when they have to clean their blinds, simply just take them off their "hinges" and run water from a hose over them for a few minutes. Unfortunately, I don't have that liberty, because ours do not come off the window. Sure it's a pain in the derriere, but I really don't have much of a choice.

But now, I want to put the reader in my shoes. I want the reader to find out how bad this really is. Like any other job, I have to "get psyched up" for cleaning a blind. First of all, I procrastinate for a week or two. After finally getting around to starting the job, I put some warm water in a bucket and add a little Ammonia to it. I dip the rag in, and away I go. While moving my hand back and forth, slowly downward, I get to contemplate the meaning of life, or why every San Francisco Giants pitcher had an arm injury this season, or why bell-bottoms have been out of style for so long now, or any other problem that I might have. Thinking is pretty much all one can do when cleaning a Venetian blind. The most difficult parts of a blind to clean are the very top and the very bottom sections. The rest of it is fairly simple. Each blind takes around 45 minutes to an hour, depending if I am deliberate or fleet in my actions. I can mentally handle doing one blind a day, for more than one tend to make me go 5150 (deranged, for you non-Dragnet connoisseurs).

Hopefully, by now, I have thoroughly demonstrated how much drudgery is involved in the cleaning of a Venetian blind. Yep, there's a whole bunch. It happens to be right up there in the fun department with watching your hair grow or plucking a porcupine of its needles. At least I don't have to do it for another eleven months or so. In the meantime, I'll be making the rounds on the after-dinner-speech circuit talking about this topic.

great job - good idea of +. Really nice
Expression -

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Keep up!