Addiction Precis

Stark, Stephanie. "Watching Friends Recover from Addiction on Facebook." *The*

 *Atlantic*, 23 Oct. 2014.

 In the article, “Watching Friends Recover from Addiction on Facebook” by former student and author, Stephanie Stark, she features her hometown of Perry, Ohio to tell of how it, “...is a microorganism of the epidemic.” Stark specifically writes how her former classmates looked to heroin to provide comfort from anxiety after everyone left after high school. As Stephanie moved on, she can recall bragging on Facebook about, “...crazy beer fests or complain [ing] about all-nighters at the library….” However, she began noticing that her classmates were becoming silent and then suddenly popping back online to celebrate their recoveries with friends and family. Stark goes on to highlight the words of Mr. Richard Foster to explain why addicts shut down, as, “...they are in denial, usually turning [their] back to their friends, family and social media [altogether]….” For Stark, it is shocking to see how many of her classmates have become addicted and have died from drug use over the years. For example, after Stephanie phoned a friend regarding one’s passing, she later learned of another student who threw away her whole education because she was in the, “...throes of addiction.” Sadly, even people in the little town of Perry, Ohio struggle to grasp ahold of their addiction and sometimes fall short, leaving behind a life of what once was and shell-shocked classmates like the author herself, Stephanie Stark.

 In response to the article, “Watching Friends Recover from Addiction on Facebook” my first response was being scared. Since I am staying local to achieve my associate’s degree, the horror stories begin to fuel worry inside of me. Stark’s clear mentioning of the anxiety that her former classmates faced also seems to strike a chord, as it would with anyone else who is fearing their future. Alongside the fear within myself, Ms. Stark’s article also creates wonder and worry about what my classmates and quiet local Perry graduate friends are up to. I think this article really brings a sense of shock and then fear to the community, as we are so reluctant to see beyond our four walls and engage others to find out what goes on within their four walls. When citizens do not check in on even their quietest of friends, things can turn south, and quick. In light of the current Perry Service Learning talks and speakers who came into the classroom, this article really sets in stone how real the epidemic is. It is right in our backyard and most likely even in my fellow classmates' lives, and here I am, being completely unaware of their actions and soon-to-be cries for help. This article has shown me that addiction is a revolving door, one that can knock a person down repeatedly, and without someone or something accepting to help these addicts, the epidemic will only continue to get worse.