7 things I am thankful for...

Kasey Panetta, Associate Editor

When I was little, at some point during the Thanksgiving season we would write down things we were thankful for. It was usually at school, written on a turkey that I'd made by outlining my hand, and it was usually things like candy, puppies, family, food, and probably whatever else was in my direct line of sight while I was writing.

Now that I'm a grown up--though I'm told actual grownups don't use the word grownup--the list has morphed a little bit. So, friends of ECN, this week I'm sharing what "adult" Kasey is thankful for, and I hope you'll do the same in the comments.

Friends and family: I know it's obligatory, but I really do have an exceptional family. Great parents, stellar siblings—you didn't hear it from me—and a fluffy, feisty, miniature poodle named Loki. I've always known my family was just a little

bit, er, *special,* but the older I get, the more I appreciate that.

My Bug: This year I was lucky enough to be able to buy my first car, and I was extra lucky in that it was my dream car growing up: a 2012 Volkswagen Bug. After six months, I am still excited to drive it every day.

Writing: Very few people are able to do what they love for a living and here at ECN, I get to write all day, every day. For a writer, that's pretty much as good as it gets, and for a young editor, it's even more fun to have a lot of flexibility in your topics. As an added bonus, the ever-changing world of technology means I'm never at a loss for something interesting to write about.

Peanut MnMs: Without these delicious chocolate treats, I would be lost.

Football season: This isn't for the reason you think. Unlike my fellow editor Jason Lomberg, [1] I find football pretty boring, which makes it the perfect time to take naps on the couch. So, really I'm thankful for naptime, but I'm thankful the NFL provides me ample chunks of time on Sundays to do so.

Good music: Few things perk me up like good music, whether it's John Williams in the car or Brad Paisley live in Philly, I love it all. Plus, this year I was fortunate enough to see Bruce Springsteen play with the E Street Band (Rip Clarence Clemons). As a native New Jerseyian, I live and die by The Boss, and hearing "Born to Run" and "Death to My Hometown" live was one of the greatest moments of my life.

Weathered the storm: Having seen the devastation of the Jersey shore and my local area, I'm very thankful my friends and family are safe and sound a few weeks after Sandy rocked the Garden State. Aside from a few flying-down spouts and minor damage, my house weathered the wind and rain well. The cleanup effort made me thankful I live in a state where we hang tough and help each other.

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