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SPAN 301S

Post-Reflection

Hey mom,

Well, what can I say? It is just crazy how time is flying by and now I have successfully completed my fifth semester here at CSUMB. I had many challenges throughout the semester but thankfully I had my friends and classmates supporting me whether it be with school or other personal things. One of the requirements for my major is to do an upper division service learning class. To fulfill this requirement I just completed SPAN 301S, service learning in the Latino community. One of the most important insights that I have gained from this recording is that when I am not quite passionate about a topic, I do not have much to say but would rather prefer to listen to another person's response. If I agree with what the person is saying I nod and smile but if I am not passionate about the topic I do not talk much.

I know that I am going to be brought up with situations in which I am going to have to voice my opinion. This has now become a personal goal for me to be able to voice my opinion with pride and confidence even if it means that I am not passionate about the topic. In the working job I will be asked to do presentations or other tasks I may not show much interest in, therefore I must begin practicing working with topic I do not show interest in. This class has now helped me to voice my opinions much better in a democratic way because not always drastic measures have to be taken in order to have a voice heard.

Another insight that caught my attention is that I was very nervous while I was recording my responses to the questions into the recorder. Unfortunately, my nervousness took over me and in the recording you could hear me say various times, “I do not know why I am very nervous answering just a couple of questions if I am in the privacy of my room and I am just speaking into a recorder.” But now that I have listened to the responses that I have given to my questions I realized that this time around I was able to produce more firm and detailed responses to the questions. Now that the course is over I have realized that I prefer to speak to a crowd of people rather than to a recorder because that fact just intimidates me.

To be honest there were only a couple of questions that intrigued me the most. For example, the questions in relation to what I thought were the causes of discrimination on the basis of language and culture. As well as, how to eliminate this type of discrimination on the basis of language and culture in society present day. These specific questions caught my attention due to the fact that language is the reason why I have decided to major in Spanish. But it is also very good to know how different cultures function within the Hispanic community due to the fact that Mexicans are not the only race that makes up the Hispanic community. It is the diversity that we have in the Hispanic community that makes us all so unique and beautiful just the way we are. I want to continue to enrich the knowledge I already have of the different cultures that comprise the Hispanic community. My service site has taught me best of the many hispanic cultures that make up the community in which I decided to do my service, Salinas. Which I will now use to help me achieve future endeavours but also continue to give back to the hispanic community.

Throughout the process of making the recording I did feel like my answers were decent but I guess feeling pressured by the thought of having these responses saved in a recording I did not go as deep as I would have liked too. I have put in more heart and thought into some questions because I believe that is what makes one have even more strength in the answers, heart. At times I felt like if my thought process would pause and I would lose my train of thought. In the end, I would just give myself a couple of seconds to get back on track and I would finish replying to the question. All of the topics that were addressed did not make me uncomfortable at any point in time due to the fact that my interest is in anything in relation to what occurs in the Hispanic community whether it is immigration, politics, or even education. There's always going to be a point in time in which hard questions are asked but it is life, and it will not always be as easy as one would like it to be. All in all I felt that I my replies were done with honesty due to my interests.

One question that in particular was difficult for me to reply, were the statements that Mr. Trump made about Mexico. "Mr. Trump does not have the right to place stereotypes on immigrants that on the most part come to the United States in the hopes of a better future. He needs to think twice and look back that not only Mexicans but Hispanics to an extent have become the backbone of the United States. Human beings have the right to have the benefit of the doubt before being judged. No cruel stereotypes are to be placed on humans without even having CONCRETE evidence." It personally was hard for me to reply because all that Mr. Trump did harshly criticize Mexico and only bring out the entire negative aspects of the country. But also did not even have the courtesy to apologize for his offensive words. I was even tempted to bring out all of the fallacies in the United States just like Mr. Trump did. Before I began

ranting I remembered that no, I can't do that because not everyone is like Mr. Trump. As well as, deny the amazing opportunities this country is giving me. I am not ungrateful. In class the issue of Donald Trump was addressed and my negative views that I have towards him are still present. America will not be able to progress with someone who wants to take away the diversity that makes the United States the powerhouse that it is today.

I personally think that my race and the fact that I can speak and write in two languages will have an influence on my definition of service. It can possibly be due to the fact the fact that I personally believe I can express myself and connect better with individuals in my first language, Spanish. The issues that I feel the most on are immigration and education. Immigration because I do support an immigration reform that can potentially benefits all immigrants that come to the United States. That is also keeping in mind that I am not in favor of immigrants that are accused of grave crimes to be benefited from this reform if it happens. Education also has a lot of my attention because it is the key towards a better society. In order for society to continue to grow the children of today and leaders of tomorrow must prepare themselves through school. Therefore, the importance of an education needs to still be highly stressed and encouraged within today's youth. To be honest I have never thought about what I feel about the least but I am pretty sure that after being exposed even more to the real world there will be something I don't feel for that much. But if I am to choose something it would be other politics that don't have to do with immigration. It can possibly be due to the fact that I only read and investigate about immigration.

I have done service learning already once during my lower division courses and unfortunately my opinion about service has not changed much. I still have not been able to develop the love for service I know I should have. If anything the past service learning course I

did made me despise it a little more. But I am willing to say that a big portion of that was because of the center of the course, using the arts to build a community. When in reality I am not someone who enjoys the arts but this course is different and I am very hopefully my opinion about service will change. There is much I have to learn about the Hispanic community through community service and other core topics I will cover in class but I would love to know how nonprofit organizations function in order to help the Hispanic community.

My upper division course has really changed my views on service. And now service for me is not a burden and I actually enjoyed dedicating thirty hours of my time this semester. The Central Coast Citizenship Project as well as this class have helped me see service in a positive way. I can now take joy out of service but also being deeply involved in issues that the community is deeply interested in. Like health, education, and immigration as an example of many. In class relevant material was being presented to what was actually happening in the community and the professor encouraged us to act upon these issues in a democratic way. I was taught that my voice does have value even if it is one, because it only takes one voice to begin a change. The support of an excellent instructor who actually cares for the success of his students and provides unconditional support and an agency that connects to one's passion has been one of the greatest things I have gotten out of CSUMB. I have fully learned what positive impact service can have upon a community. As well as, the significance of unity within the Hispanic community, in order to continue to prosper as a whole. Well, mom take care and I am very happy I was able to talk to you about my second go round with service learning.

