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For this reflection I intend to focus on a personal narrative of the Columbine High School community and a paper intended to focus on setting which is an abandoned factory near my home in Sweden

Looking backward

After rereading my story set in Sweden, the fictional twist at the end made me realize the creativity I have retained from writing countless fictional short stories as a child. Years ago, I was extremely interested in writing action stories—typically involving zombies—and having the bring out this interest in Intro to Creative Writing was a blast to the past. Given that the topics of Columbine and Sweden are continuously relevant in my life, there was not anything to recall, but it was interesting to reflect on how I viewed these topics while writing the papers.

Looking forward

I would want to continue working on my setting midterm essay that involves the factory in Sweden. If I were to revise it in the future, I would want to expand it into a longer, more complete plot. I feel that there is great potential using my unique experiences in the abandoned factory, and there are many possible routes I could take. This is something that I have mentioned a couple of times in the last assignments, and I continue to stand by this goal of mine.

Looking inward

I was very enthusiastic about these two writings. I find it entertaining to write about personal experiences; everyone has their own stories and I enjoy telling mine. I believe that both papers were fairly well written though the Columbine narrative is a bit unorganized and lacking external sources. When it comes to the setting paper, I feel that I did not learn anything about writing due it being fairly simplistic. On the other hand, the narrative allowed me to learn how to write about certain aspects of a community. In the class that is was written in, Cultural Narratives, we read the book *Wisdom Sits in Places* by Keith Basso which I pulled strategies from to analyze a culture. I was able to learn about myself through both of my pieces by reflecting on how experiences shape who I am. Columbine and Sweden have been relevant throughout most of my life and physically documenting my experiences with them has allowed me to cherish them.

Looking outward

In a society with an ever growing issue of mass shootings, I had hoped that my narrative on Columbine's community would provide a perspective on its unfortunate reality to an audience that has no personal connections with a shooting. I wanted the Swedish paper to simply be an entertaining piece, but it also works to expand my audiences view of a different culture. Sweden is not a location typically seen in modern literature (as far as I know), and it bring me joy to allow others into this world many are unfamiliar with. This paper reveals my interest in creating short, fictional stories as mentioned in the "looking backward" section. Although I have not

continued my passion for writing thrilling stories it is still something that will always be of interest to me.