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Discussion Questions

Part 1:

1)

* + Authors write or speak in first person
  + They express their opinions
  + These narratives express emotion rather than facts and evidence
    - Appeal to pathos rather than logos
  + Their tone appeals to and attracts the audience
    - It invests in the reader emotionally
  + They all wrote or spoke for a purpose
    - To express their experiences and emotions
  + Each showed their acceptance to and abandonment by society
    - Their alienation due to culture, preferences, and personal struggles
  + They all expressed their narratives in a chronological order.
    - A time period was mentioned or a reference of time was given by other events
  + Usually don’t rely on any outside sources
  + Information in narratives come mostly from author’s experiences
  + Their explanations, anecdotes, and experiences were completely personal

2) Blog

* + Use invitational tone
  + Use slang and humor to connect with audience
  + Written in multiple short paragraphs
  + Present a relaxed tone
  + Implement images into stories
  + Usually easy to follow layout with images and paragraphs

Part 2:

1. *Always Living in Spanish* by Marjorie Agosin was particularly powerful as it evoked an emotional response from me towards the end. Alienation provides a sense of identity to an individual that is unique to the norm. Marjorie Agosin lived with this unique identity that was deviant from the norm. Her perception of herself was highly manipulated and crafted by what society deemed appropriate. These norms and ideals raised insecurities as she was abandoned by society. Being alienated further separates someone from themselves than society as they begin to question themselves along with their own acceptance. There is more conflict involved in the fear of abandonment from society than the relief from acceptance to society. Alienation secludes an individual as they are abandoned and steadily forgotten. In a way, this just seems to be such a painful experience. This narrative particularly appealed to me as Marjorie Agosin began accept herself before she was eventually accepted by society. This moment that she accepted herself and disregarded the judgement she faced from society amazed me.

2. I’ve had some personal experiences that I’d rather not recall from my younger years. I’ve lived in fear of not knowing what was right or wrong. This culture I was exposed to was so different than what I came from. Foolishly, I just copied every pronunciation of every word and every gesture performed by my peers. I was still only beginning to be exposed to the habits and expectations of my peers as I grew up in Tennessee after moving from India. In a way, I was trying to be accepted by society. At the time I wasn’t quite certain if I was being accepted or abandoned by society as my peers did question my every word and gesture. Sure now, my external behaviors have altered to be accepted or rather were unnoticed by society as they began to be known as normal. As Opposed to how Marjorie Agosin has accepted her culture above others, I’ve come to accept this new one. This could provide some ground for my narrative.

3. What have you done to become more accepted into society as you became more self-conscious to your unique individuality as Marjorie Agosin has done to accept herself?