Reflection Paper

My years of high school commenced unfamiliar beginnings. I’ve spent around five years in California before arriving in Colorado. The change was exiting as I did experience my first blizzard with such forceful snow in the year of 2009. I’ve begun my freshman year of high school in Cherokee Trail High School. At this school, I met my best friend, Hitesh, who I’ve know for the better part of six years now. We’ve come to know each other and share our hobbies through these years. Through all these years I’ve learned that my friends define who I am. These years have gone by so quick but left behind so many profound memories.

I first met Hitesh at a social gathering where we exchanged the usual introductions. We got to know each other quite well in a period of two hours. We were **bonding** **(p. 259)** over our similar hobbies and interests. We both like tennis and share an interest in similar shows. As the night progressed we became exhausted as we’ve been talking and laughing for hours. We then learned there was an air hockey table in the basement. Intrigued, we ventured to the basement and to our amusement there it was. It sitting towards the back corner of the basement. We walked over threw a puck on the tabled and started playing for a few seconds before we were both confused as to why the puck was moving so sluggishly. We started smacking the table confused as to why it wasn’t working. After a few minutes, I hear Hitesh let out a sigh with his finger pointing to an unplugged cord attached to the table. At this point it was probably one in the morning when we began hysterically laughing while searching for an outlet and laughed harder when we couldn’t find one. This fond memory always remains in my mind to this day as I smile at the sheer vagueness of this **interaction (p. 6).** We became even more familiar with each other as the days passed.

Our **personalities (p. 90)** were distinguishingly unique from each other however. He always appeared as outgoing and extraverted while my **face (p. 52)** expressed more reserved features. Being as outgoing as he was, Hitesh introduced me to his friends with whom we sat with during lunch. We developed a **friendship (p. 355)** as we ate lunch together and developed some peculiar **personal idioms (p. 179)**. One such personal idiom was when we kept whispering hockey table and remembering that time at one in the morning that we forgot to plug in the hockey table and laughed about it for hours. We later began playing tennis on weekends. Much to my surprise, we both had an interest in tennis, but we both lacked any skill whatsoever to keep a rally going for more than four hits. Of course, we eventually did gain experience as we joined the tennis team at our school. Soon after we made a **commitment (p. 287)** to play tennis at least once every two weeks. Our other shared hobbies included playing video games. We had some fun times playing some video games in his basement home theatre. These memories make me feel nostalgic. School continued and we hung out with his friends as usual. As days went by I became more familiar with his other friends. One of these people I’ve formed a bond with is Stephen.

Stephen was very charismatic and had an immense range of connections across the school. Stephen introduced me to a broad presence of **media (p. 7)** both foreign and domestic. Some of these were shows like Doctor Who, Big Bang Theory, Death Note, and Code Geass. We spent days watching these shows together and I was very intrigued by the humor in some of these shows as well as the plot in the others. We developed a **reciprocal liking (p. 291)** as we found these new interests. We kept **paraphrasing (p. 154)** some of the quotes from these shows and some comedians as we laughed about them. We started spending a lot of time together forgetting the worries of school and exams. These experiences helped me in opening up to be more outgoing and introducing myself to more people. Developing this sense of humor and newfound interests we **vented (p.125)** to each other our worries about the future. We talked about what we’d do after high school and about what our ambitions were. It was a great chance as **self-disclosure** **(p. 63)** as I wasn’t entirely sure what my path as we were about to graduate. We bonded over these discussions as we ate at chipotle or Qdoba. We also had some amusing experiences at chipotle like the time when Stephen took three hours to eat a burrito. He was too busy talking that he kept forgetting that he had a burrito to finish. Every time we go to Chipotle now, I tell him I hope we don’t dine in for more than three hours while laughing about it. Stephen has helped me, just like Hitesh, to open up and express myself more.

Through this boost of self-confidence my **self-concept (p. 40)** improved as well. My **personality (p. 90)** has definitely changed over the years. I honestly don’t think I’d be able to become who I am right now without their help. We three got along very well as the years progressed. As senior year approached we planned to go camping. The anticipation left me restless for the weekend to begin. We left on a Saturday as the sun was just about to come up. We had an amusing ride as we sang to some music that was playing on the radio with the windows down and the air flowing through the car. As we set up the tent we had a somewhat friendly dispute of **territoriality (p. 226)** even given the size of the tent. It was big enough to fit five people. As we went on the hike that we anticipated since our departure I let my **selective listening (p. 164)** take advantage of me as I was listening to the birds nested in the trees and I didn’t hear Hitesh and Stephen explaining the distance of the trail we were to hike. This unexpectedly long hike wore us all out as we crashed by the pond halfway through the trail as we admired the view. This particular situation peaked my **self-awareness (p. 39)** as I analyzed the life I’ve lived for the past four years in Colorado. I started thinking, could I really be who I am right now without these friends I’ve made? It intrigued me that these two people have changed my life as it were. The sound of the wind and the ripples in the pond elicited a soothing sensation as I pondered this thought. It felt as if we were **family (p. 324)**.

As these years have passed we have acknowledged each other’s values, traits, and fears. These pieces of information consist of the central layers of the **social penetration theory (p. 59)**. Through all this time we have become more intimate as we became closer friends. This **intimacy (p. 60, 234)** led me to rely on Hitesh and Stephen whenever I faced a dilemma in my life. Their assistance has led me to make decisions that I might’ve regretted if I’ve decided upon alone. This relationship has led me to change from the reserved self I once was to developing a somewhat more outgoing attitude. This relationship helped my self-esteem as well since I began to imagine others seeing me as more outgoing. This ideology is defined by the **looking-glass self (p. 41)** where we determine our self-concept through thinking of others’ perception of us. Through the course of six years, I’ve arrived here to be who I am despite who I was in the past thanks to the friends I’ve spent time with throughout high school and the time after that.