

**When you arrive home, how do you feel about the prospect of uncritically resuming your pre-departure lifestyle to the point that it becomes “home” again and the relationships and insights from your foreign experience fade? (Slimbach 227). Use Slimbach’s theories to critically analyze your expectations for your own “journey home.”**

I think about returning home almost every day. Either for the fear of it, or the relief that it’s only a short time away now. I either love my new life here or I loath it for the same reasonings. Things like how much education I have here, but how overwhelming that knowledge is. Or how many opportunities I have scheduled here, but little control over how I live, what I eat and basically what my day will look like.

Being an exchange student, with a know time limit for my stay here, I think I’ve kept myself somewhat unattached. I’ve made lifetime connections here, ones that I want to keep up with throughout my life. Although everyone I meet knows that I’m not here to stay. I know for the most part people only talk to me because I’m American. Not to be too depressing, I’ve connected with people past the fact I’m an exchange student. This is just the reality. It’s been a constant struggle for me here to get my personality out past my American image.

If anything that I’ve learned from this year, is who my true friends are. I know who I’m excited to return to and who I need to cut out of my life. Part of the

reason I left was for that. I felt lost, unconnected to my home and the people who I was supposed to care for the most.

I can not resume the life that I left, nor do I want to. I've experienced the liveliness of city life, so I know what kind of life I want to pursue, even in a seemingly small town. I talked with a friend back home on this matter. She is frustrated with our small town and how everyone seems to be lying around waiting for their lives to start. I couldn't stand that feeling so I took the leap to start my life and came here to Morocco.

So what's the next step for me? I've jumped early, matured greatly and have no desire to regress. The next step, I feel would be college. But I have another year to even graduate high school. I am fortunate enough to have the Pilot program at my high school. This will allow me to direct three course of my interest. I'm motivated to shape these studies into a progression of what I've studied this year. I see this opportunity as something to project me forward and upward.